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**WEST END WATCH**  
something new in the watch world...  
Yacoub Youssef Behbehani

# Khomeini's son likely successor

MANAMA, March 31, (UPI): Iran's leader Ayatollah Khomeini may be forced to designate his son Ahmed as his successor to ensure the 10-year-old revolution lives on after him, diplomats and Iranian sources said today.

Gulf diplomats said there was no obvious replacement to Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri, whom the 88-year-old Khomeini ordered to resign as his designated successor in a surprise move on Tuesday.

"It's beginning to look very likely that Khomeini will be forced to push his son Ahmed into the forefront of Iranian politics for the first time since the revolution" in 1979 that toppled the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, one envoy said.

Iranian sources pointed out that Khomeini has been grooming Ahmed to take over for some time, and recently made remarks in public indicating he had great plans for his son.

The sources said that Hojatoleslam Ahmed Khomeini recently complained to his father about the way the Iranian media distorted his remarks, and expressed concern that while he was alive, the elder Khomeini could put the record straight — but political factions could interpret his sayings whichever way suited them after his death, when he would no longer be able to refute what they were saying.

"In remarks published in the (Iranian) regime's newspapers recently, Khomeini ordered his son to collect his speeches and said that he alone would be their sole interpreter after his death," a spokesman for the Baghdad-based leftist Mojahedeen Khalq organisation said in a telephone interview from Manama.

"Within the Iranian context, Ahmed's final word on Khomeini's teachings would allow him to yield enormous political power after his father's death," the spokesman said.

Khomeini last year, however, rebuffed moves by his three highest-ranking officials to bring Ahmed into the political arena.

(See also Pages 5, 6)

## Arafat faces criticism

TUNIS, March 31, (Reuters): PLO chairman Yasser Arafat takes centre stage at a meeting of the group's central committee due to open late today which is expected to name him as the first President of Palestine.

But Arafat must also overcome opposition from radical factions within the PLO hostile to his individualistic style of policy-making.

The central council has 80 to 90 members drawn from the Palestine National Council (PNC), the parliament-in-exile which last November in Algiers proclaimed a Palestinian state.

The meeting in Tunis, which could last several days, is the largest PLO gathering since the PNC session and PLO officials say it must review the success of the peace strategy and decide where the PLO should go next.

## Lebanon tense

**Sabah to visit Syria for talks**

TUNIS, March 31, (Agencies): Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, who is trying to mediate in Lebanon's crisis, will go to Damascus with Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibbi on Sunday, Arab diplomats said.

Sheikh Sabah chairs an Arab League committee set up in January to try to resolve the constitutional crisis in Lebanon.

The diplomats said the committee felt it could not find a solution without high-level contacts with the Syrian government, which has troops stationed in two-thirds of Lebanon.

The latest fighting between soldiers loyal to Christian Army commander Michel Aoun and Muslim militiamen backed by Syria has given added urgency to the committee's efforts.

The committee, which also includes Kibbi and five Arab foreign ministers, consulted seven Lebanese politicians in Tunis this week without making any apparent progress.

In Tunis, the Arab League said today it has decided to extend the life of the committee on Lebanon beyond its original term and diplomatic sources said that several of its members soon will travel to Beirut.

The Arab League Council agreed last night in Tunis at the end of a regular meeting to prolong the work of the committee of Arab foreign ministers, a statement by the inter-Arab organisation said.

Aoun has pledged to drive the Syrian Army from Lebanon and has accused Syrian soldiers of taking part in the shelling of Christian areas. Syria has denied that its troops were involved.

The diplomats said the committee might send a mission to Beirut to meet militia leaders but there were not yet firm plans for such a trip.

Lebanese patrol boats intercepted a Syrian ship, security sources said yesterday.

Meanwhile, fires continued to blaze at Beirut's main fuel depot in the Christian district of Dora amid fears of renewed butane gas explosions. Fire trucks poured water into the area round the clock to keep the flames from leaping into the surrounding area.

Christians also staged a general strike in their bomb-ravaged enclave northeast of the capital to protest ferocious Syrian shelling barrages.

In Washington, the Lebanese embassy appealed to President Bush for his help in stopping bloodshed in Lebanon and accused the United States of ignoring Syria's "destructive role" in two weeks of fighting.



**Hoffman's second**  
Hoffman holds up the Oscar for best actor. (Reuters wirephoto)  
See 'Rain Man' Page 3

# Egypt's return to Arab fold certain

Saudi pledge to help Iraq rebuild N-reactor

CAIRO, March 31, (Agencies): Saudi Arabia gave its formal blessing today to Egypt's return to the mainstream Arab fold and renewed its pledge to help Iraq rebuild a nuclear reactor that Israelis bombed.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Hosni Mubarak, at the end of a four-day tour through Egypt, also threw their weight behind efforts to create a Palestinian state and denounced Israeli actions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

"The Saudi side said that Egypt's presence within the Arab fold was indispensable support for joint, concrete Arab work which would strengthen solidarity in achieving the rights of the Arab nation," the two leaders said in a joint statement.

## Iraq making N-warhead

WASHINGTON, March 31, (AP): Iraq is building a nuclear warhead for a missile that could carry it to targets in Israel, the Washington Post reported today.

In a dispatch from occupied Jerusalem, the newspaper said some "well-placed Israeli sources" reported Iraq was two years away from testing such a warhead while others said the project needed five more years.

In 1981, Israeli planes bombed and destroyed an Iraqi nuclear reactor at Tammuz that Israel said was devoted to producing a nuclear bomb. The current project was said to be using leftover enriched uranium from that reactor.

The Post also said Saudi Arabia is financing the project and Pakistan is providing technical assistance. Saudi Arabia denied today that it is funding the project.

In Jerusalem, military sources said Iraq, in co-operation with Egypt and Argentina, for five years has been developing the surface-to-surface "Condor 2" missile with solid fuel and a highly accurate inertial guidance system. The missile was said to have a range of about 500 to 620 miles (800 to 1,000 kilometres).

The authoritative Jane's Defence Weekly said in London earlier this week that the missile could carry a 3,300-pound (1,500-kilogramme) warhead of chemical or nuclear arms.

## Moderate stand

# Muslim leader killed in Belgium

BRUSSELS, March 31, (Reuters): A Belgian magistrate appealed to the public today for information on the killing of the spiritual leader of Muslims in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg and his assistant two days ago.

Marina Coppiepers T'Walant, who is investigating the killing of Saudi imam Abdullah Al Ahdal and his Tunisian assistant Salim Bahri, asked anybody who spoke to them on Wednesday to contact police.

"The same goes for anybody who has information to reveal about the authors of the killings," she said in a statement.

Police say their strongest lead is the fact that Ahdal criticised Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini's death sentence against British author Salman Rushdie.

Ahdal had received an anonymous death threat after saying Khomeini's call for Muslims to kill Rushdie for blaspheming Islam in his novel 'The Satanic Verses' was not the right way to proceed.

The two men were killed in Ahdal's office at Brussels' main mosque on Wednesday evening, probably by a lone gunman.

A Muslim group in Lebanon, the Soldiers of Truth, said today that it had killed them.

The group, which has previously claimed responsibility for kidnapping a Belgian doctor and assassinating Saudi diplomats, said Ahdal and Bahri had used the Brussels Islamic Centre as a front for anti-Islamic activities.

Worshippers leaving the main mosque after Friday prayers said an official who was standing in an imam had condemned the murders and asked Muslims to stay calm.

Many said Belgium's Muslims had been drawn into a conflict which did not involve them.

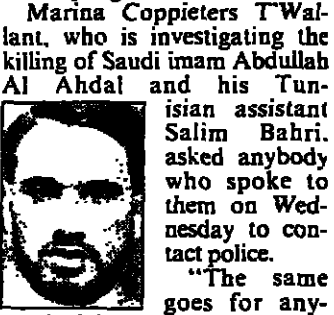
A senior Muslim cleric said yesterday he believed the murders of Ahdal and Bahri were due to jealousies among Muslims, and were not connected with Rushdie.

Zaki Badawi, a former president of the largest mosque in Britain, the Regent's Park mosque in London, said the Belgian authorities had "foolishly" designated the Brussels mosque where the slayings took place as the official mosque in Belgium.

"That creates a lot of jealousies and resentments," Badawi said in a telephone interview.

A convicted Thai murderer was beheaded in Saudi Arabia today.

The Saudi Press Agency named the man in Arabic as Samanoun Whon Huan and said he was beheaded in a public square in Al Khubar, south of Dammam after Friday prayers.



Ahdal

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A Jewish settler shoots in the air with an Uzi sub-machine-gun to frighten Palestinian youths during a clash in a West Bank village. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Israel, US trade snub over PLO

Shamir accepts Palestinian polls

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 31, (Agencies): Israel and the United States have snubbed each other in an apparent diplomatic tit-for-tat over Washington's contacts with the PLO, officials said today.

Senior security sources said Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had decided not to implement any of the measures sought by the United States to ease tensions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip before his visit to Washington next week.

Israel Radio said the United States had rejected an Israeli request to send its head of military intelligence to brief the Bush administration on "continuing PLO terrorism." The Foreign Ministry declined comment.

Diplomats said the Bush administration had urged the PLO to tone down the violence of the Palestinian uprising in exchange for Israeli "confidence-building measures" in the occupied territories.

The measures included withdrawing some soldiers from Arab towns, releasing hundreds of Palestinian political prisoners and reopening schools in the West Bank, closed during most of the 15 months of the uprising.

But the security sources said Shamir wanted to retain the option of ordering some of the measures while he was in Washington, depending on the progress of his talks there.

Foreign Ministry sources also said Israel had ordered its diplomats to refuse to receive State Department reports on US dialogue with the PLO which began in December.

"We didn't want it to be seen as indirect negotiations with the PLO," an official said.

Israel contends that attempted cross-border raids from Lebanon, some by radical groups within the PLO, violate US terms for the dialogue and show that PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's renunciation of terrorism was a hollow pledge.

Indicated

Israeli troops killed two more Arab guerrillas in a clash north of Israel's self-declared security zone in south Lebanon during the night.

Secretary of States James Baker indicated this month that Washington did not regard guerrilla raids from Lebanon as grounds for halting US-PLO contacts.

Paradoxically the military intelligence chief, Major General Amnon Shahak, told the cabinet earlier this month that Israel had no alternative to negotiating with the PLO if it wanted to end the uprising.

An opinion poll published today said two-thirds of Israeli Jews favoured peace talks with the PLO if it accepted Israel's right to secure borders and ceased terrorist acts.

The poll, conducted for the leftist Peace Now movement, said 66 per cent of those questioned backed negotiations on the stated terms, while 28 per cent supported Shamir in opposing talks with the PLO under any conditions.

Officials in Shamir's office said Cabinet Secretary Elaikim Rubinstein would visit Washington on Monday, two days before the prime minister, to discuss his ideas for local elections in the occupied territories to find Palestinian negotiating partners.

Shamir says he will accept elections in the occupied territories leading to talks with Palestinians on an interim settlement for the territories.

Shamir made the statement in an interview published today, and Israeli newspaper reports said he wants the negotiations to centre on autonomy for the 1.7 million residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Under certain circumstances, I will not rule out elections," Shamir said in an interview with the daily Yediot Ahronot. "The character of elections should be negotiated with the Americans."

## Marcos to be re-examined

HONOLULU, March 31, (AP): A court-appointed physician will re-examine former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos because the results of his first physical could be outdated, a prosecutor says.

"This is just to confirm the reports of his health and to update our own information because the other exam was so long ago," assistant US attorney Charles Labella has said. Labella is the lead prosecutor in the government's criminal racketeering case against Marcos.

Marcos, 71, has been hospitalized at St Francis Medical Centre here since Jan 15 for treatment of respiratory and heart ailments.

## Arab Times

### Grand Bingo

Tomorrow is the last day for sending entries. Numbers will be drawn from April 4.

**INSIDE**

International	2,3
Kuwait-Gulf	4
Middle East	5
Editorials	6
Business	7,10
Stocks	8,9
Events	10
Features	12,13
Classifieds	14
Urdu	15,16
Sports	17,18

آج کے اردو صفحات میں  
○ بھارت افغانستان کے  
○ معاملہ میں داخلہ کر کے  
○ بیروت میں تل کے ذخائر  
○ کوئٹہ گنگی  
○ برسلو میں سعودی امام کو  
○ قتل کر دیا گیا  
○ امارات میں سرگت نوشی  
○ کے خلاف مہم

## WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light variable to moderate north-westerly wind.

State of sea: slight to moderate

High water: 9:00 am, 5:30 pm

Low water: 12:30 pm

Sunrise: 5:38 am

Sunset: 6:07 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 22°C 72°F

Ahmed: 20°C 68°F

Falaka: 20°C 68°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 8°C 46°F

Ahmed: 10°C 50°F

Falaka: 10°C 50°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 23°C 73°F

Ahmed: 21°C 70°F

Falaka: 21°C 70°F

Relative humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 34 per cent

Ahmed: 34 per cent

Falaka: 35 per cent

## Quakes shake 3 least states

MAN, March 31, (AP): Two quakes shook Jordan, and border regions of Saudi Arabia this morning, but there were no reports of damage or injury.

The first, larger quake struck about 2:45 am (0045 GMT) and was felt in many parts of Jordan, according to officials in those countries.

# Oil output firm for now: OPEC

Crude breaks \$21

VIENNA, Austria, March 31, (AP): OPEC ministers have pledged to maintain self-imposed restrictions on oil production for the next few months to keep prices at current, strong levels.

If prices remain stable, OPEC appears ready to consider boosting production in the last half of the year, Indonesian Oil Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita said yesterday.

Ministers also offered ideas on how a new production accord might be shaped for the last half of the year, said Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi. He did not elaborate.

During the two-day meeting of the eight-member OPEC monitoring committee, which ended yesterday, ministers discussed strategy for planning crude oil production.

All 13 ministers will convene on June 5 in Vienna to approve a production accord for the last six months of 1989.

"Everything is good," Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Azadeh said about the closed-door meetings. "Everything is positive."

The ministers at the meeting renewed their commitment to the November agreement that called for production restraints in the first half of the year. The accord set a cap on output of 18.5 million barrels a day and the limited production has helped boost the average crude oil price by more than five dollars a barrel, to just over \$18 a barrel.

OPEC also got fresh support from the United Arab Emirates, which analysts say has been exceeding its OPEC production quota.

OPEC Secretary-General Subroto said Abu Dhabi, one of the emirates, said its March production was limited to 850,000 barrels a day, substantially below the one million barrels a day analysts believed was being pumped and sold.

Good sign

Abu Dhabi's output "is a good sign of the willingness of everybody to adhere to the agreement," Subroto said.

Analysts estimate the United Arab Emirates output has been more than 1.5 million barrels a day, compared with its 988,000-barrel daily OPEC quota. Abu Dhabi's production has been about two-thirds the UAE total.

Crude oil prices in US rose above \$21 a barrel on Friday to their highest level since August 1987, driven by gains in petrol prices and supply worries related to the Alaska oil spill.

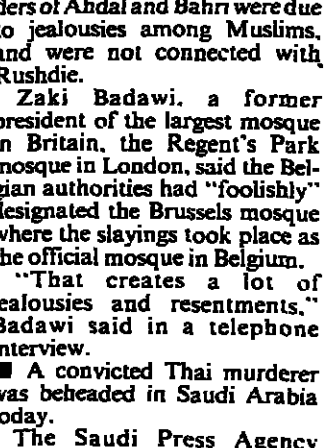
The benchmark US crude, West Texas Intermediate for May delivery, was up 44 cents at \$21.25 a barrel in late morning trading after touching a high of \$21.48 dollars on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The crude opened at \$21.15.

In the joint statement, Saudi Arabia and Egypt gave support to the 15-month-long Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and to the declaration of a Palestinian state last November.

"Both sides denounce the inhumane Israeli actions and its refusal to accept the legitimate rights of the struggling Palestinian people," it said.

"The positive development in the Palestinian position is a rare opportunity which all parties should seize to reach a just and comprehensive settlement to the conflict in the region."

(Continued on Page 5 col. 3)



King Fahd (right) and Mubarak listen to the Friday prayer sermon at Al Azhar. (Reuters wirephoto)

# S indicts junk bond sharp Milken, two Drexel execs

By Jadranka Porter  
Arab Times staff

NEW YORK, March 31, (AP): Two present and former employees of Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc., a New York-based investment firm, were indicted on Wednesday on federal charges related to junk bond trading and a scheme the company was trying to launch last week in Kuwait.

Representatives of Drexel's London office were in Kuwait last Sunday to promote investment in the bonds. Junk bonds, a popular means of financing takeovers, are issued by companies without long track records of sales and earnings, or by those with questionable credit strength. Drexel acknowledged that it had raised \$200 million in the Gulf when it took part in the financing of a \$25 billion takeover of RJR Nabisco.

Gulf investors have not shown a great deal of interest in buying junk bonds, George Kardouche of Drexel's London office told the Arab Times.

Michael Milken, head of Drexel's high yield junk bond department, was charged with racketeering and securities violations in the largest criminal indictment in the two-year Wall Street insider trading scandal.

Also charged in the case, which caps a three year investigation is Milken's brother Lowell, Drexel's senior vice-president, and Bruce Newberg, a former trader in the company's junk bond department. The three are accused of a multi-million-dollar racketeering conspiracy using Drexel's high-yield bond department through a series of securities fraud schemes. Announcing the indictment US attorney Benito Romano said the government is seeking \$1.8 billion under forfeiture provisions of the federal racketeering statute. The amount constitutes the proceeds of the defendants' unlawful scheme.



## Thousands greet arrival of UN envoy in Namibia

WINDHOEK, Namibia, March 31, (UPI): The chief administrator of the UN peacekeeping mission in Namibia arrived today to supervise the start at dawn tomorrow of an independence plan for Africa's last colony and an end to a century of German and South African rule.

Thousands of blacks turned out to greet UN administrator Martti Ahtisaari as the final countdown to independence began, but the biggest contender for control of the new nation, the South West Africa People's Organisation, kept supporters away fearing violence.

Buoyed by reports British Prime Minister would jet into Namibia tomorrow to visit British troops in the UN peacekeeping force and meet Foreign Minister Rocard, both South African officials prepared for the first major steps in the independence plan.

Hours before it was to be implemented, Angola, Cuba and South Africa swapped 16 political prisoners in a long-awaited exchange signalling a US-brokered agreement between the three countries on South African acceptance of Namibian independence in exchange for a withdrawal of some 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola.

At dawn tomorrow, a formal ceasefire between South African troops and SWAPO guerrillas was to take effect, following the confinement of an estimated 25,000 South African defence force troops and 18,000 Namibian security forces to their bases.

"It is the eve of an era," said the 51-year-old Ahtisaari, who has been waiting for a full decade as UN Namibian representative to implement Security Council Resolution 435 guiding Namibia to independence.

"It will be the era of all Namibian people," he said.

Ahtisaari was accompanied by Namibia's South African-appointed Administrator-General Louis Pienaar whose administrative decisions are subject to review and acceptance by the UN mission chief.

Pienaar's authority will come to an end following certification of the results of a scheduled Nov 1 election for a constituent assembly that will draft the nation's constitution and lead to full independence provisionally set for April 1, 1989.

The peacekeeping operation includes 4,650 international troops, 500 civilian police from 15 nations, 760 clerical and administrative personnel, 620 poll monitors and some 800 Namibians who will be hired locally, mainly as interpreters.

## 'Meeting must be postponed' 12pc of Soviet legislature seats unfilled

MOSCOW, March 31, (AP): The first meeting of a legislative body created as part of Mikhail Gorbachev's reform programme must be postponed, the Soviet President said in a speech published today.

Gorbachev said Sunday's elections for the Congress of People's Deputies left 12 per cent of the body's seats unfilled. He had said previously he hoped for the body to meet in May, but new voting must be held of the unfilled seats.

In his speech, he gave no date for the first session of the 2,250-seat body. Soviet elections law

requires it to meet within two months after the initial voting, or by May 26, to choose a full time legislature and a state President.

The elections, the country's first multi-candidate balloting in 70 years, saw some prominent Communist Party and government figures lose their bids, including some who were running unopposed but did not receive the approval of half the voters.

Gorbachev, in a Wednesday speech published today in Soviet newspapers, said some of those officials lost because they had

not fully embraced his reform programme.

Candidates in 275 districts failed to win the majority of votes needed to claim a deputy's seat. New elections are to be held on May 14 in 199 districts where neither of two candidates won a majority. In 76 districts where three or more candidates ran and none won a majority, runoff elections will be held on April 9.

In his speech to news media executives, Gorbachev portrayed Sunday's election as a referendum on the reform programme he launched four

years ago.

Those who were restructuring slowly and not expanding ties with workers were the ones who lost," Gorbachev said.

He said the elections showed the people's "strong critical disposition."

In trips around the country, Gorbachev has been besieged by citizens unhappy with chronic shortages of consumer goods.

He said the elections were a "further advancement of the policy of perestroika (restructuring), of the entire democratic process."

### Allegations denied

## 24 killed in Kosovo riots, says minister

BELGRADE, March 31, (Reuters): Authorities in the troubled Yugoslav province of Kosovo today denied reports that hundreds of people were killed in recent rioting between ethnic Albanians and police, giving the death toll as 24.

Deputy Interior Minister Rajko Calovic told reporters in the regional capital of Pristina that 22 civilians were killed. Two policemen also died in the bloody clashes.

"Claims alleging that hundreds of people were killed and hundreds injured... are totally groundless," Calovic said.

Some unconfirmed reports from the region in the past two days put the dead at over 100. The rioters were protesting at moves giving greater control over Kosovo to the Serbian republic, of which the region is a constituent part.

Calovic said 121 police had been injured, nine seriously and three with bullet wounds. Ninety-eight protesters were known to have been hurt, but it was possible others had not come forward for medical help.

The newspaper Borba reported from Kosovo that most injured demonstrators had been treated in private houses for fear of being identified.

Kosovo, on the border with Albania, remained quiet today with paramilitary units still alert for possible trouble tomorrow, the anniversary of 1981 separatist riots.

Kosovo has been under night curfew and day-time restrictions since Monday when rioting escalated to armed clashes.

Borba said some people had tried to demonstrate in Pristina, 220 km (135 miles) south of Belgrade, and the mediaeval town of Pec yesterday but were thwarted by swift police action.

Other media reported that over 700 workers had been suspended or punished in other unspecified ways for ignoring compulsory work orders issued under emergency measures imposed last month after a general strike involving 50,000 people.

The strike added to Yugoslavia's already serious economic problems and March's disturbances have exacerbated the problem, prompting Vice-President Stane Dolanc to say yesterday the country was facing one of its worst crises in decades.

Yugoslavia suffered a further blow today when official data showed that inflation had soared to nearly 400 per cent.

## Freedom at last

ROME, March 31, (AP): An Italian woman who had threatened to give birth in a camper in front of the Chinese embassy said today she would abandon her protest after receiving assurances her husband would be allowed out of China.

Patrizia Riccardi, 33, has spent more than a week in the camper trying to persuade China to grant a visa to Zhu Juwang, 28, a former diplomat.

She said she will leave the camper tomorrow as a sign of faith in the Chinese government.

Earlier today, the Foreign Ministry in Beijing said it had decided for humanitarian reasons to let Zhu rejoin his wife.

# Step down, UK urges Najib

## Howe in Delhi talks

NEW DELHI, March 31, (Agencies): British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe urged Afghan President Najib today to step down in favour of a broad-based government in Kabul.

He told a news conference the vast majority of world opinion wanted an end to the Soviet-backed Kabul government that Moscow has kept in place for 10 years.

"The Najibullah government should step aside and make way for a fully representative government," he said.

"In my talks with Afghan (rebel) leaders in Pakistan, I found a welcome desire to work for a government that will command a wide acceptance inside the country," Howe said.

However, Howe added, the new government must not be imposed on the Afghan people.

A large part of Afghanistan is in the control of the mujahedeen (and) nobody is confident of predicting the future," he said.

Following the final withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan last month, Howe said the Afghan people need time to establish a government acceptable to all.

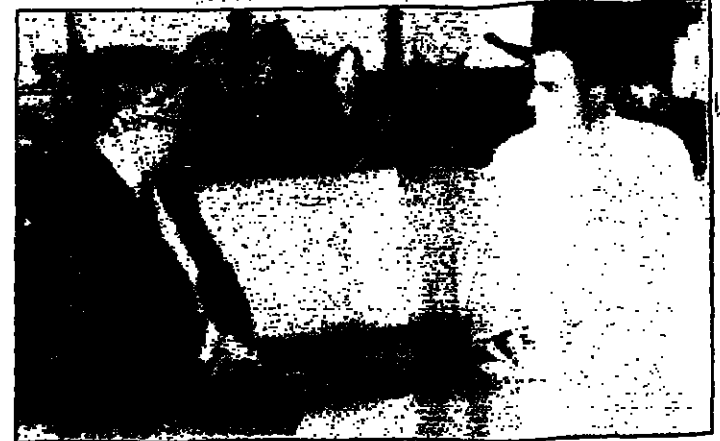
Howe disagreed with a reporter who suggested that the situation in Afghanistan was getting out of hand. However, he said, "we all want to see an Afghanistan at peace, no longer a threat to its neighbours or divided within itself."

He poured cold water on further United Nations involvement in the conflict, saying it was important the UN did not give Kabul an opportunity to regain ground lost to Muslim rebels.

Howe acknowledged that Britain has differences over Afghanistan with India, which recognises the Najib government and this month began airlifting humanitarian aid to Kabul.

Neither government wants to see a fundamentalist Muslim administration but in an apparent reference to India's position Howe warned it was unwise to rely on warned information from Kabul.

He also told reporters India recognised the sincerity of British efforts to crackdown on support among Sikhs in Britain for



Rajiv (right) with Howe at the prime minister's residence in New Delhi (Reuters wirephoto)

### Sikh leader arraigned

## Talks ruled out

AMRITSAR, March 31, (Reuters): A Sikh militant leader who was charged yesterday with illegal possession of weapons rejected a peace initiative by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, saying Sikhs wanted nothing short of a sovereign state.

Manjit Singh, President of the All-India Sikh Student Federation, interviewed in detention after his court appearance, ruled out any talks with the government to end a seven-year separatist battle in India's northern Punjab state.

"We won't bow to pressure," said Singh, who was charged in Amritsar district court. "We will continue to fight until the shackles of slavery are removed."

The goal of Sikh militants fighting in Punjab remained the creation of a sovereign state they call Khalistan, he said.

Two other officials in the hardline Sikh federation were charged with murder, terrorism and revolt against the state. Earlier this month the government freed 103 Sikhs detained without trial for four years on charges of waging war against the state. Manjit was among a second group still in detention facing criminal charges.

The prison release was part of a Rajiv initiative to try to reopen a political dialogue over Punjab as the country prepares for nation-wide elections later this year.

"This particular government has made the Sikhs slaves," Manjit Singh said. "Sikh youth are being killed in fake encounters (clashes with police) and the prime minister is giving a communal angle to our struggle in the international arena."

Singh alleged police dressed as Sikh militants were waging a terror campaign against Punjab farmers to discredit the Sikh movement in its rural base.

Sikh secessionists in the north Indian state of Punjab.

Howe did not raise the Salman Rushdie affair during talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi but it was discussed with other Indian ministers.

India was one of the first countries to ban Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses" but has not com-

demned Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini for sentencing the Indian-born author to death for blaspheming Islam.

Relations between India and Britain, hazy long been prickly but an official said he believed there was now much more understanding between the two nations.

## Eighteen shot dead in Sri Lankan violence

COLOMBO, March 31, (UPI): Sinhalese extremists shot dead 18 people, most of them supporters of the ruling United National Party, in attacks during the last 24 hours, while security forces seized a radio transmitter used for clandestine broadcasts by the rebels, authorities said.

In the Galle district, 72 miles (115 km) south of Colombo, Sinhalese extremists of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) or People's Liberation Front shot dead a UNP supporter last night, a police officer said.

Armed men in uniforms took the man, identified as H. Jinadasa, outside his house and shot him dead, police said.

In another incident at the southern coastal town of Matara, 100 miles (160 km) from Colombo, Sinhalese rebels shot

dead W.P. Jinadasa, police said. Jinadasa's home was the UNP headquarters for the area.

Security forces conducting cordon and search operation in the southern district of Matara have seized a clandestine radio transmitter used by Sinhalese extremists for periodic broadcasts over the past six months, military officials said.

The radio equipment was seized yesterday in Pallanathara, a village 22 miles (35 km) from Matara.

Security forces have also recovered two landmines, five shotguns, large quantities of gelignite, fuse caps and live cartridges from a house where the Sinhalese extremists have been making broadcasts, the sources said.

## Benazir's mother takes oath

ISLAMABAD, March 31, (KUNA): Two ministers and six ministers of state today took oath of their office in the federal cabinet of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

President Ghulam Ishaque Khan administered the oath of office to the new cabinet members at a ceremony held at the President's House here this morning.

The ministers were: Begum Nusrat Bhutto, chairperson of the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party and mother of the prime minister, and Syed Yusuf Reza Gilani, a member of parliament from Multan district in Punjab.

Names of the new six ministers of state are: Miss Shehnaz Wazir Ali, Ahmed Saeed Awan, Mir Tariq Magso, Shah Nawaz Junjo, Zafar Ali Shah and father Rufus Julian.

Their names were announced with 23 others last week but they had not taken oath of their offices, at that time, for one reason or another.

Nusrat Bhutto, the widow of late Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, has been declared as minister but will have no portfolio. She will be officially known as minister without portfolio.

Pakistan Muslim League's second major political party Awami National Party's Abdul Wali Khan for treason.

In another development, the possibility of Pakistan's re-entry into the Commonwealth was discussed between the Malaysian leaders and the Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General C. Emeke Anyaoku.

## Escapee leaves US consulate as Pretoria frees him

JOHANNESBURG, March 31, (AP): A black activist emerged today from refuge at the US consulate after police guaranteed his freedom, and described his daring escape from a hospital where he was on a hunger strike.

Simon Ntombela, 27, slipped away from his guards on Wednesday at a hospital in the port city of Durban and took a commercial flight to Johannesburg, 360 miles (600 kilometres) away.

At a news conference after he walked smil-

ing out of the consulate in Johannesburg, Ntombela told how he swung to the ground from his second-storey hospital room on a severed telephone line, outran a guard who chased him, put on a jacket and necktie, used his bank card to get money from an automatic cash-dispensing, then took a taxi to Durban's airport.

He said a ticket saleswoman told him all of Wednesday's flights to Johannesburg were full. At her suggestion, he bought a standby business class ticket and moments later, after a cancellation, was assigned a seat on the next

South African airways flight.

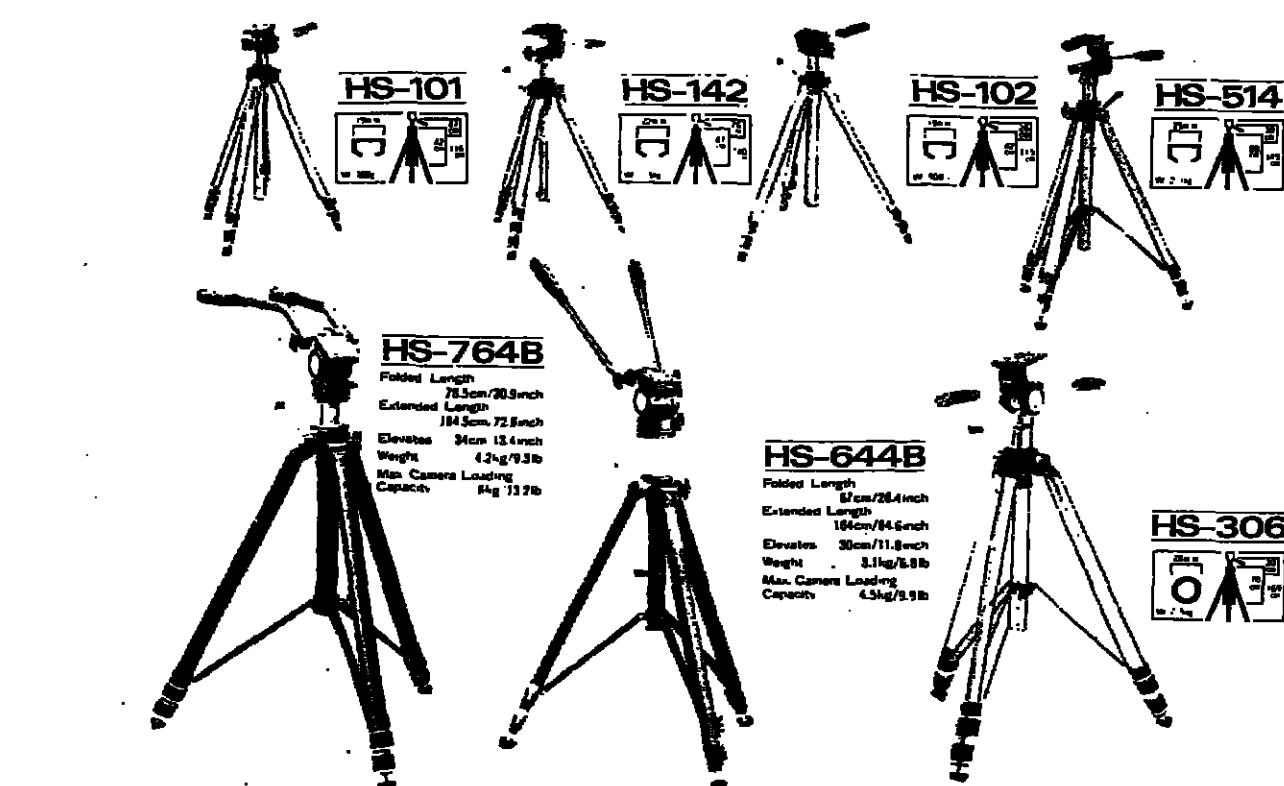
Ntombela said his escape came after eight days of fasting to protest his detention, and he felt weak as a guard pursued him.

"But I had the advantage of running for my freedom," Ntombela said. "He was only running for pay."

US embassy officials said South African authorities notified Ntombela yesterday that he would not be re-detained if he left the consulate, on the 11th floor of a downtown office building.

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'Slow response'

## Exxon boots 'toxic' captain

VALDEZ, Alaska, March 31. (UPI) Exxon USA yesterday fired the skipper of an oil tanker that hit a reef with a load of Alaskan crude oil March 24, spilling at least 11 million gallons over 600 square miles of the ecologically sensitive waters of Prince William Sound.

At the same time the Coast Guard began procedures to suspend the licence of Captain Joseph Hazelwood, who left the helm of the Exxon Valdez to his third mate before it ran aground and caused the biggest spill in US history.

The National Transportation Safety Board said a test performed 10 1/2 hours after the accident showed Hazelwood's blood alcohol level was .061, far above the .04 limit allowed by the Coast Guard.

But NTSB investigator William Woody emphasised that the delay in testing left it unclear whether Hazelwood was legally unfit to command a ship at the time of the accident.

Hazelwood, 42, of Huntington, New York, was not on the bridge of the Exxon Valdez at the time of the accident. Third mate Gregory Cousins was on the bridge at the time, although he was not certified to operate the vessel through the tricky waters of Prince William Sound.

Cousins apparently has been cleared of alcohol use by the NTSB.

Asked about Hazelwood's status with Exxon, company spokeswoman Sharon Curran-Westcott responded tersely, "the captain has been terminated." She refused to elaborate.

Coast Guard spokesman Bruce Pimental said suspension of Hazelwood's licence would be immediate if the Coast Guard determines he acted negligently.

Pimental said the filing was not triggered solely by the alcohol test results but was "based on the current knowledge the Coast Guard now has about the captain's actions, lack of actions and all the facts in the case."

"He refused to explain further," he said.

**Intoxicated**  
If Hazelwood is determined to have been intoxicated while in command of the ship, he faces a \$1,000 civil penalty, a criminal penalty of one year in jail and a \$5,000 fine and loss of licence.

Earlier yesterday, Exxon said it was involving force majeure, a legal device whereby it declared the spill "an act of God." A spokesman said the doctrine was invoked to protect the company from customer claims for late oil deliveries.

Meanwhile, the federal government refused to take over the cleanup, angry fishermen were spending their own money to save the salmon, and the Soviet Union offered to help by sending cleanup equipment to Exxon's growing flotilla working the blackened waters off Valdez.

Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner, back in Washington to brief President Bush after inspecting the spill, said Exxon did not respond quickly enough to the spill but was now doing a credible job in the cleanup.

"The response could have been quicker," Skinner said. "We're not sure that the impact of a quicker response would have been but we're going to learn. Exxon, the state and the federal government are working well together and at this point, there is not a need to federalise this effort... such a decision might be counterproductive because of the coordination that is ongoing."

## US gets up early

WASHINGTON, March 31. (Reuters) The United States switches to daylight saving time on Sunday for seven months. Clocks will be turned ahead one hour at 2 am in each time zone.

The time will not change in the states of Arizona, Hawaii and most of Indiana, which remain on standard time all year.

Standard time resumes on Sunday, October 29.



A young girl is evacuated by Red Cross workers from the maximum security prison of El Pavon. (Reuters wirephoto).

## Rebels end prison mutiny

New guards promised after 7 die

SANTA CATARINA PINULA, Guatemala, March 31. (AP) Inmates have ended a five-day prison uprising that left at least seven people dead and subjected hundreds of visitors trapped inside to hunger, cold and fear.

On Thursday, the government signed an accord with the mutinous inmates that calls for replacing the Pavon Prison farm's administration and guards and guaranteed that none of the rebels would be harmed.

At least four guards and three inmates were killed.

in the uprising at the country's largest prison, 15 miles (24 kilometres) east of Guatemala City. The rebels had demanded pardons for crimes committed during the revolt. But the government said only Congress could pardon crimes.

Interior Minister Roberto Valle Valdivia, the government's special attorney general for human rights, and three representatives of an estimated 100 rebel inmates signed the accord a day after authorities cut off food, water and electricity to the overcrowded prison.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Hijack attempt foiled

MOSCOW, March 31. (Reuters) A man who tried to hijack a Soviet airliner on an internal flight yesterday was overcome by KGB security officials at the airport of the Azerbaijani capital, Baku, a Soviet spokesman said today.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perilyev told a regular news briefing that the man, Stanislav Skok, had threatened to blow up the Tupolev-134 airliner unless he was given \$500,000 (\$850,000) and flown to Pakistan.

He said the man had made his demands soon after the plane, on a flight to Baku from the south Russian city of Voronezh, took off after a stopover in Astrakhan.

## Ulcer danger from arthritis drugs

WASHINGTON, March 31. (AP) The most useful drugs for arthritis are also the ones most likely to cause gastric ulcers, leaving some people with the disease the choice of painful, swollen joints or abdominal bleeding, according to a new survey of physicians.

A survey published yesterday by the Arthritis Foundation of 1,009 physicians who treat arthritis patients showed that 93 per cent of the doctors believe that aspirin, ibuprofen and some prescription anti-inflammatory drugs are the most useful of a limited number of medications available to treat arthritis.

But, at the same time the survey found that 81 per cent of the doctors regard digestive problems caused by the drugs to be the most serious complication in the treatment of arthritis.

## Papandreou seeks divorce

ATHENS, March 31. (UPI) Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou has filed for divorce from his American-born wife Margaret, apparently to clear the way for him to marry former air stewardess Dimitra Liani.

Officials said Papandreou's lawyer Anastassios Liapis filed papers for the premier's divorce from his wife Margaret in the court of first instance, on grounds that the couple have been living apart for more than four years. Under Greek law, a couple living apart for four years may be granted a divorce.

## Use of animal hearts

LONDON, March 31. (KUNA) The controversial use of animal hearts in human transplant operations could become a necessity, a leading UK surgeon has predicted.

John Dark, director of the Heart Transplant Programme at Freeman Hospital in Newcastle, northeast England, said that while any such use of animal organs was "a long way off" it should be planned for now.

"We are still desperately short of donors, and the likelihood is that there will never be enough donors," Dark pointed out.

## Romania recalls envoy

PARIS, March 31. (Reuters) France said yesterday that Romania had recalled its ambassador to Paris after French protests over Romania's human rights record.

Ambassador Petre Giga had told French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas he was being recalled for consultations with his government, a ministry spokesman said.

## Extradition sought

FRANKFURT, March 31. (AP) A federal official yesterday said the Czechoslovak government has requested the extradition of two teen-age hijackers who commandeered a Hungarian airliner and forced it to fly from Prague to Frankfurt.

The official, Peter Rothen, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Bonn, said a decision on the request "will definitely take some time."

## US plans no troops pullout from Europe

WASHINGTON, March 31. (UPI) Defence Secretary Dick Cheney indicated yesterday he has no plans to withdraw any of the 350,000 US troops from Europe and will lead the opposition to major military involvement in the war against illegal drugs.

In a wide-ranging interview with the three major wire services, Cheney also reiterated that he has made no firm decisions about where to cut \$6.3 billion from the fiscal 1990 defence budget and said he would make his decisions after conferring with the heads of the military services next week.

The former Wyoming congressman, who will attend his first NATO defence ministers meeting in Belgium April 18-19, was asked about suggestions that President Bush bring home some US troops in Europe as a budget-reduction move and to make NATO countries share more of the burden of their defence.

"I think what we should do with respect to our commitments to Europe is to meet those commitments and those commitments haven't changed," Cheney replied.

## Star may have exploded

WASHINGTON, March 31. (AP) An unusual chemical composition found in Halley's comet suggests that a star may have exploded near the sun during the formation of the solar system some 4.6 billion years ago, according to astronomers.

Susan Wyckoff, an Arizona State University professor of physics and astronomy, said on Wednesday that a spectrum analysis of elements in Halley's comet shows that its ratio of carbon isotopes is unlike any tested elsewhere in the solar system.

This suggests, she said, a supernova exploded near the sun and contaminated the gas cloud that later condensed to form the planets and other objects orbiting near the sun.

## suicide.

Dr Sidney Wanner, chief author of the article, is a member of the Advisory Board of the Society of the Right to Die. Eight of the authors had taken another controversial stand in the New England Journal five years ago when they endorsed the concept of withdrawing food and fluids from a dying patient.

The New England Journal article reports that courts have upheld the rights of patients to refuse medical treatment in more than 80 decisions.

Laws recognising "living wills" in

which patients can limit future treatment should they become incapacitated, are in effect in 38 states and 15 states allow a patient's proxy to authorise the withholding or withdrawal of life support treatment.

The New England Journal article was based on 2-1/2 days of meetings in 1987 sponsored by the Society for the Right to Die, a national organisation that promotes living wills. Not all the authors belong to the society and several said the organisation did nothing to influence the outcome of their discussions.

Pulitzers out

## 'Post,' 'Times' take top awards

NEW YORK, March 31. (AP) Jerusalem-based reporter Glenn Frankel of the Washington Post, who won a Pulitzer prize for international reporting, says Israel has seized on the award as proof they have an open society with press freedom.

In announcing annual awards for journalism yesterday, the Pulitzer board awarded two prizes in international reporting. Frankel won for his reporting from the Middle East, and Bill Keller of the New York Times won for coverage of the Soviet Union.

"If you wanted to know anything about the Soviet Union in the past few years, you had to read Bill Keller," said Bernard Gwertzman, acting foreign editor of the Times. Bill Drozdak, foreign editor of the Washington Post, said Frankel has "done superb work under very difficult circumstances."

David Zucchino of the Philadelphia Inquirer won in feature writing for his series "Being Black in South Africa," described as "richly compelling" by the judges. The Pulitzer board had switched his entry from the international reporting category to features.

The prestigious yearly awards for outstanding work in journalism and the arts by Americans were endowed by the late publisher Joseph Pulitzer. First given in 1917, they are awarded by the trustees of Columbia University in New York on the recommendation of the Pulitzer board.

Frankel, in Jerusalem, told the Associated Press he was very surprised and honoured at winning the prize.

"I've tried very hard to keep the story on human terms, keep it about people on the ground and how it affects them, not just the generals in the Army but Palestinians of all varieties and the Israelis who have to serve (in the territories)," Frankel said.

Israelis say the prize shows theirs is an open and democratic society with freedom of the press.

Frankel said. But he pointed out, that one of his stories selected for the Pulitzer nomination was about Israel's alleged assassination last April in Tunis of Palestine Liberation Organisation official Khalid Wazir, known by his nom de guerre Abu Jihad.

The government temporarily suspended Frankel's press card after the article was published because he failed to submit it to military censorship.

But Frankel added: "(Journalists) do have access to all sides in this very dramatic story... so stories can be very compelling."

Keller, who won for his Moscow reporting, was on a press flight to Cuba, where Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev planned a visit.

"No one deserves the Pulitzer more than Bill Keller," said managing editor Arthur Gelb in a statement. "As soon as he lands, we plan to call him and tell him we're all toasting his achievement with magnums of champagne."

The Anchorage Daily News won the 1989 Pulitzer prize for public service for a series on alcoholism and suicide among native Alaskans.

Donald L. Barlett and James B. Steele of the Inquirer won the national reporting prize for a 15-month investigation of provisions in the Tax Reform Act of 1986 that gave special tax breaks to many politically connected individuals and businesses. The Pulitzer board said the series aroused so much public indignation that Congress rejected such breaks.

Bill Dedman of the Atlanta Journal and Constitution won the Pulitzer for investigative reporting for "The Colour of Money," an investigation of alleged racial discrimination by the city's lending institutions. After the series, a consortium of banks announced programmes for lending at least \$67 million at low interest, especially in black neighbourhoods.

The Philadelphia Inquirer and Chicago Tribune each won two prizes.

When it 'Rains' it pours

## 'Rain Man' best

Academy award winners

LOS ANGELES, (AP) Here is the complete list of winners at Wednesday night's 61st annual awards ceremony of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences:

1. Picture: *Rain Man* producer Mark Johnson.
2. Actress: Jodie Foster, *The Accused*.
3. Actor: Dustin Hoffman, *Rain Man*.
4. Supporting Actress: Geena Davis, *The Accidental Tourist*.
5. Supporting Actor: Kevin Kline, *A Fish Called Wanda*.
6. Director: Barry Levinson, *Rain Man*.
7. Original Screenplay: Ronald Bass and Barry Morrow, *Rain Man*.
8. Adapted Screenplay: Christopher Hampton, *Dangerous Liaisons*.
9. Foreign Language film: *Pelle the Conqueror*, Denmark.
10. Documentary Feature: Marcel Ophuis, *Hotel Terminus: The Life and Times of Klaus Barbie*.
11. Documentary Short Subject: William Guttentag and Malcolm Clarke, *You Don't Have to Die*.
12. Film Editing: Arthur Schmidt, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*.
13. Makeup: Ve Neill, Steve Laporte and Robert Short, *Beetlejuice*.
14. Music Original Score: Dave Grusin, *The Milagro Beanfield War*.
15. Music Original Song: Carly Simon, *Let The River Run*.
16. Animated Short Film: John Lasseter and William Reeves, *Tin Toy*.
17. Live Action Short Film: Dean Pariset and Steven Wright, *The Appointment of Dennis Jennings*.
18. Sound: Les Fresholtz, Dick Alexander, Vern Poore and Willie D. Burton, *Bird*.
19. Sound Effects Editing: Charles L. Campbell and Louis L. Edmanson, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*.
20. Visual Effects: Ken Ralston, Richard Williams, Edward Jones and George Gibbs, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*.
21. Art Direction: art director Stuart Craig and set decorator Gerard James, *Dangerous Liaisons*.
22. Cinematography: Peter Biziou, *Mississippi Burning*.
23. Costume Design: James Acheson, *Dangerous Liaisons*.

Announced in advance:

Honorary: National Film Board of Canada.

Honorary: Eastman Kodak.

Special Achievement: Animation director Richard Williams, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*.

Award of Merit: Sound engineers Ray Dolby and Joan Allen.

Gordon E. Sawyer; lens designer Gordon Henry Cook.

Academy could find only three songs to nominate this year instead of the usual five, and didn't see fit to have them performed during the show.

The year's best foreign-language film was Denmark's *Pelle the Conqueror* a grim tale about an exploited farmworker and his son.

With Wednesday's ceremonies, the Academy dropped the traditional line "the winner is..." in favour of "and the Oscar goes to..." using the nickname the statuette has acquired. The intent was to soften the sense of competition.

Hollywood's annual tribute to itself, televised live, moved at its usual plodding pace and was peppered with heavily-handled production numbers. The industry relied heavily on nostalgia, recruiting as presenters such old-time partners as James Stewart and Kim Novak and Bob Hope and Lucille Ball.

The 1989 season followed a record year at the box office. More than one billion tickets were sold in 1988, with gross revenues of \$4.38 billion.

Producer Allan Carr promised an infusion of glamour for the awards show, whose viewer ratings have declined steeply over

the years.

But the telecast opened with an embarrassing production number that included a Snow White character who talked like Betty Boop and accompanied actor Rob Lowe in a rendition of the rock song *Proud Mary* amid dancing nightclub tables.

One hundred Los Angeles police were on special assignment at the event, augmenting the private security guards who had been at the Shrine for five days. Said one of them: "A lot of people want in on the action, and we have to see that they don't get it."

Last year traffic planning was a fiasco, forcing many participants to leave their limos and walk blocks to the auditorium. This year 75 officers from the State Department of Transportation were assigned to the area, a couple of miles (kilometres) south of downtown by the University of Southern California campus.

● The Walt Disney Co. sued the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for copyright infringement Thursday, contending its Snow White character was used without permission during the Academy Awards show.

## A TEDDY BEAR'S TALE

(CHAPTER 1)



Once upon a time, a cute little teddy bear was accidentally placed in a washing machine. What happened next? Follow Chapter 2 on page 5.



## KUWAIT ... GULF

## Special contract transfers for expatriate civil servants denied

EXPATRIATE civil servants appointed according to the grade system will not be transferred to special contracts, according to a senior Kuwaiti official.

Abdul Aziz Al Zaben, under-secretary of the Civil Service Commission (CSC), commenting on the issue said that Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashid has denied any such move.

Zaben added that all expatriates in public service are appointed either in accordance with the grade system or on special contracts.

At the end of their service, appointees in the grade system are entitled to gratuity of eight per cent of their total salary drawn for the first five years of service and 12 per cent for each year completed after the first five-year period. The gratuity is calculated according to the last salary drawn, with a maximum payable for 30 years of service.

Any employee leaving service before the expiry of his contract will lose 25 per cent of his gratuity unless the employer desires to pay a full indemnity. If an employee is dismissed for non-performance of duties, the employer has the right to deduct from 10 to 50 per cent of the gratuity.

In the eventuality of death or permanent disability of the appointee during service, the indemnity will be doubled.

## Kuwait inherits international monetary inflation

KUWAIT may soon become the highest price importer in the world, according to Msaed Al Omairi, assistant undersecretary for central statistics affairs at the Ministry of Planning.

In a lecture on the role of statistics and scientific research in the development of Kuwait, Omairi said that the open nature of the Kuwaiti economy has made it highly susceptible to the vagaries of foreign currency fluctuations.

Aggravation The relatively small size of the country's foreign transactions have forced it to import monetary inflation from industrialised countries. Additionally, the special nature of the national economy coupled with the structure of the local market have aggravated this undesired situation.

It has contributed to a constant increase in local prices compelling higher spending on development programmes, spiralling inflation and a consequent decline in residents' living standards, Omairi said.

He urged that Kuwait should apply on an urgent basis plans to speed up its development process. Scientific methods should be incorporated into obtaining statistics, updating logistics and comprehensive planning requirements taken into consideration with advanced knowledge on current and future expatriate manpower in Kuwait in order to ensure population balance.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Dental congress

KUWAIT, March 31. (KUNA): The Kuwait Dentist Association (KDA) yesterday began their fifth congress under the patronage of His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah.

Health Minister Dr Abdul Razzaq Al Youssef Abdul Razzaq addressed the congress on behalf of Sheikh Saad. He said Kuwait strongly believes in collective work especially in medical fields.

Pakistani delegation KUWAIT, March 31. (KUNA): Defence Ministry Undersecretary Faisal Adawood received here yesterday director of Pakistan joint forces Imtiaz Wars and the accompanying delegation.

Talks centred on co-operation between Kuwaiti and Pakistani Defence Ministries in military fields.

## Escape bid

A KUWAITI citizen being tried in court for allegedly being involved in dealing in narcotics made an attempt to escape during the trial, a local daily said.

The daily said that the accused, at a moment when the guard was inattentive, rushed out of the Palace of Justice into a waiting Mercedes car which then took off at high speed.

His escape bid was futile as the guard pursued the convict in a jeep and intercepted the getaway vehicle at a red traffic signal down a main street. Investigations are under progress.

## Maid abuse common in Gulf states

Asian governments take action

KUWAIT, March 31. (Reuters): Somawathie stumbled into the Sri Lankan embassy sobbing, her frail body cut and bruised.

"She beat me, she tore out my hair, she bit me," she whimpered, turning to show wounds on the back of her leg as she cried out yet another domestic maid's horror tale.

Hundreds of thousands of Asian women have flocked to the oil-rich Gulf to work as maids, but for some the promise of good wages has turned to nightmare.

Growing reports of abuse have led some governments to ban or restrict work permits for maids. Kuwait, among other Gulf Arab governments, is taking steps to rein in the flourishing, semi-legal trade in domestic help.

Somawathie, 39 and the mother of five, had been working in Kuwait for only a month when her mistress pushed her into the labour attaché's office. "She's crazy. Send her back," the employer screamed. She said Somawathie had ripped out her own hair, bit herself and torn up her only possessions in a fit of madness.

But embassy officials registered Somawathie, who clutched a plastic bag holding a lock of hair, a shredded dress and bits of letters, as the 247th case of

abuse on non-payment of wages that month.

The Sri Lankan embassy records an average of 300 complaints a month from maids. Most simply aren't paid. Some say they were thrown from balconies, doused with boiling water or seared with heated knives.

"My employer got into her raging moods whenever she had a quarrel with her husband," 29-year-old Wimalawathie told a local news daily last November after running away and taking refuge in the embassy.

"She would continue to beat me even when her hands were covered with my blood."

Sri Lankan diplomats went to visit 22-year-old Bala Kumari in hospital last September after she had been slashed with a knife, dunked in boiling water and beaten on her back and legs. Doctors counted 83 wounds.

About 60 maids are now in the embassy's custody awaiting the outcome of court cases or simply a plane ticket home. Some have been there as long as 15 months.

The Gulf Arab states may have some of the world's largest number of maids per capita. In Kuwait they number around 120,000, or an average of one for every other household.

"Eighty-five per cent of the maids are quite happy," said Sri Lankan Ambassador Abdul Qader Mohammed. But he told Reuters the plight of the rest was of enough concern for his government to be considering a total ban on the export of maids.

India and Bangladesh already refuse to certify work visas for maids in the Gulf.

The Philippines ended a 10-month ban on requests for domestic servants last November but strictly limited applicants to the families of senior government officials, diplomats and employees of international organisations.

The Filipino ban led to a row with Saudi Arabia, which retaliated last year by imposing a five-month freeze on work permits for all Filipino workers.

Kuwaiti officials have criticised their society's apparent dependence on maids for home chores and have wondered out loud about the threat to traditional values posed by non-Arabic speaking, non-Muslim nannies.

"This is not a very healthy phenomenon, but it is natural," Planning Minister Abdul Rahman al Awadi told foreign reporters.

"We think Kuwaiti ladies should do more of the housework. Children brought up by maids are not going to be the right children."

One Kuwaiti lawyer, Mohammed Abdul Qadir Al Jassim, called the trade in maids a "disgraceful blemish on the face of Kuwaiti society."

"There is a real, daily danger facing the Kuwaiti home and dependence on servants in everything is at the root of it," he wrote in another local daily.

Local newspapers say Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah has submitted a draft law to the cabinet setting down for the first time regulations for the recruitment of maids.

Diplomats say one factor contributing to maid abuse is the lack of legal protection. "The agent in the recruiting country signs something in the local vernacular which is not legally recognised in this country," said Ambassador Abdul Qader.

A text of the draft law published by various newspapers requires recruiting offices to deposit KD5,000 (\$17,300) with the Interior Ministry as a guarantee.

The offices must draw up a proper legal contract with the servant and her employer and they cannot demand a fee from the servant.

Diplomats said many of the maids now employed in the Gulf had sold gold, land and possessions in their home countries to pay a recruiter — only to end up working for nothing.

## ROPME to seek aid to clear Gulf lanes

KUWAIT, March 31. (Reuters): Gulf states will ask for international help to clear sea lanes of mines and sunken ships left behind by the Iran-Iraq war, Kuwaiti Planning Minister Abdul Rahman Al Awadi said yesterday.

In a rare show of co-operation, Iran and Iraq got together with neighbouring states on Wednesday to plan the removal of shipping hazards left by the eight-year conflict.

Awadi told reporters that military experts from the region, including Iraq and Iran, would meet within six months to discuss the location of leftover mines.

Disputes The meeting was attended by ministers and officials from Iran, Iraq, Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia — the five states which make up the executive board of the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME).

Gulf war fighting ended with a ceasefire in August but Iran and Iraq remain deadlocked on the underlying disputes.

Awadi told reporters: "The major problem was 21 ships, now they have reduced them, the ones that cause the real danger, to around seven ships that are in the shipping lanes," Awadi said.

Hazards These were scattered from the Shatt Al Arab to the Strait of Hormuz, he added.

During the war, Iraq bombed ships carrying Iranian crude oil in order to cut off its wartime revenues. Iran responded with attacks against cargo ships serving the ports of Iraq's Gulf Arab allies.

"Some of these (sunk ships) are a real hazard to navigation, and this is going to be our priority," Awadi said.

Awadi, who chaired the meeting, said the board had approved an initial \$500,000 to assess the situation and draw up clean-up plans, a process that would take around six months.

He said experts and divers would have to go to each ship to estimate the danger and figure out how to eliminate it.

Costs The "accident cleanup" would cost considerably more, he added, and other countries, especially those who use the waterway, would be asked to share expertise and part of the cost.

"We are going to call for an international meeting in which all the concerned organisations in the United Nations participate," he said.

"I am sure the international community will be ready to participate. He said he could give no estimate on how many mines were still in the Gulf, saying only Iran and Iraq could provide the information. "No country in the region has been slow in providing information on the location of mines."

ROPME was formed in 1978 by the eight countries that share the Gulf coastline.

## Computer conference

KUWAIT, March 31. (KUNA): The first Kuwait Computer Conference has called on Kuwait to host the next gathering in 1991 within the same framework and send invitations to a greater number of Arab researchers to attend.

Chairman of the conference's organising committee Dr Ahmed Bisharah has informed KUNA that the assembly, which would open on Wednesday, has issued an open call toward the Arabisation of computers and encouraging universities and scientific research institutions to attach more attention to research, particularly on the tie between the computer and the Arabic language.

Bisharah shed light on the significance of establishing an Arab scientific magazine that specialises in computer science to act as a melting pot that contains all the production of researchers in the Arab world.

## Joint purchases

THE GCC states have been successful in the agricultural field and have registered huge financial gains through joint purchases, according to Hassan Ali Al Nufi, the Bahraini undersecretary for the Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture.

He added that there is a plan to set up representative offices for national industrial installations in the GCC states, in a move intended to support and encourage the flow of national goods between the members states.

This arrangement will further activate the commercial activities of the GCC states and support the establishment of a joint Gulf market, Nufi said.

## KAC not to be privatised

Airport to handle 5m passengers

KUWAIT Airways Corporation (KAC) has no intention of transferring itself to the private sector, according to a senior airline official.

Ahmad Al Mishari, the chairman of KAC also denied that there is any dispute between KAC and its pilots and navigation engineers society. He added that KAC has submitted a new scale of pay scale for approval to the Civil Service Council. In a television interview last night, Mishari said that the new pay scale if approved will raise total emoluments of its staff. He expressed the hope that the corporation may pay an annual bonus to its staff this year as KAC is expecting substantial profits.



Gas-related fire, explosion destroy house

A maid of a house in Ardhiya, who forgot to close the valves of the gas cylinder and the cooker for some time and then switched on the kitchen light, received first-degree burns in the aftermath of the ensuing explosion and fire which caused extensive damage estimated at KD10,000. Personnel of the General Fire Department successfully put out the blaze.

## Double murder criminal gets sentenced for life

Youth gang arrested

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a man Samir B. to life in prison for double murder.

The court was told that the defendant visited the house of a woman in the Salamiya area in the absence of her husband and unsuccessfully tried to sexually assault her. In a rage, he murdered the woman and her child. To cover his dastardly deed, the accused set fire to the flat.

Thirty witnesses identified the defendant, who is employed as a teacher, as the murderer.

Stick up artists The same court also sentenced two brothers identified as Ahmad and Ali both of whom were accused of murder, to death and life imprisonment respectively.

According to testimony, the defendants had recently come to Kuwait. Ahmad was in serious financial problems and successfully smuggled a pistol and bullets to abet him in his crimes.

The defendants followed a man who had withdrawn a large amount of cash from the bank to his building, where Ahmad shot him and stole the money while Ali acted as the driver of the get-

away car.

Two months later they once again tried to repeat their performance, but were apprehended by security personnel who recovered the pistol and ammunition.

Ballistic tests conclusively proved that the murder weapon was being the same as used in the first murder.

Sex crime In a separate incident, the court sentenced a Bangladeshi man and a Sri Lankan maid to two years in jail to be followed by deportation for having illegal sex. The court was told that the employer of the maid caught the two accused in the act and reported the incident to the police.

In a case of citizen co-operation with police, citizens of Ardhiya, Firdous and Andalus area organised patrols and were successful in apprehending a gang of teenagers accused of several thefts from cars and houses in these areas.

The gang consisted of four boys aged between 14 and 18 years and who called themselves the Bu-Adel Gang. Investigations are in progress.

## Police arrest smugglers after hot chase

TWO police patrol cars from Jahra Governorate chased a truck engaged in smuggling liquor and exchanged gunfire with the driver of the truck who used an automatic rifle.

Securitymen successfully arrested the man and seized a number of liquor cartons including the rifle and several magazines of bullets.

The smuggler identified as Salem K. told the police that another car was waiting for him at Al Izam Square. The police acting on this information

KAC in an innovative investment policy designed to achieve maximum profits has agreed with the Kuwait Hotels Company to establish an international travel company. He added that KASCO which is owned by KAC has achieved KD1 million as profits on a capital base of not more than KD4 million. Mishari disclosed that KAC is studying a proposal to sell a part of KASCO to the private sector.

Routes KAC flights to East European countries had been discontinued due to some financial overruns from these countries. However, these had been sorted out and KAC is now seriously studying the possibility of re-opening these East European routes during the summer. In this respect, KAC is also studying the operation of flights to Moscow.

KAC's venture in leasing some of its planes to foreign airlines during winter has proved successful. In a further move to reflect the economic integration between KAC and Egypt Air, the former will lease the Air Taxi service to the latter, Mishari said.

He added that the hijacking of KAC's Jabriya did not financially affect KAC as these losses had been made good by the insurance companies.

In a related issue, an official source said that the execution of the first stage of the expansion of the airport will begin after the endorsement of the fiscal budget for the year 1989/1990 and is expected to be completed by 1995. On completion, the airport will be able to handle five million passengers per year, which is estimated to be adequate to service passengers up to the year 2015, the official said.



Ahmad Al Mishari

## Charity bazaar

KUWAIT, March 31. (KUNA): Under the auspices of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, the Kuwait Women's Club will organise its Charity Bazaar during April 1-3.

Deputising for His Highness, the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohamed Al Ahmed will attend the opening ceremony to be held at 4.30 pm tomorrow at the women's club building.

also successfully arrested the driver and his companion and recovered a pistol and six bullets.

In an additional operation, police patrols also combed the area and arrested a man identified as Karim M and confiscated a sub-machine gun, 121 bullets, four ammunition magazines and 724 bottles of alcohol.

All suspects identified as non-Kuwaitis have been referred along with the contraband to investigative authorities.

## New GCC regulations

## Anti-smoking campaign to hit tobacco manufacturers

ABU DHABI, March 31. (Reuters): British and US tobacco firms face possible losses in the lucrative Gulf market, where governments are trying to stop their dedicated smokers puffing away on strong cigarettes.

Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are expected to impose new regulations following a GCC agreement last year aimed at reducing the number of smokers, officials said.

The United Arab Emirates is due to impose the new regulations tomorrow which could force tobacco firms to change some production lines, local dealers said.

They said the US companies Marlboro and Winston and the British firms Rothmans and Dunhill, which between them have 90 per cent of the UAE market, all sold cigarettes which would be banned under the new rules.

Every year smokers in the UAE alone now puff their way through 2.5 billion cigarettes worth \$67 million and the total GCC market of 17 million people is worth about 15 times more, dealers said.

"Demand is very high considering the population," said one dealer.

Tomorrow, the UAE is due to ban cigarettes with more than 12 milligrams of tar and 0.8 milligrams of nicotine. Boxes of more than 20 cigarettes will also be banned.

The GCC plans a hefty 50 per cent tariff on cigarette and tobacco imports, a ban on advertising in official media and health warnings.

Saif Khalaf, a director at the UAE Economy and Trade Ministry, said traders must get rid of stocks before the ban takes effect.

"The period given to us to dispose of the available quantities is too short and will cause large losses," said Ahmed Jawad, sales manager at Marlboro's UAE agent.

"We have large stocks and already put orders with the factory in the United States, let alone shipments on their way by sea."

Lucrative market Dealers said they had asked the UAE to postpone the ban but ministry officials declined to say whether they would do so.

Dealers have also urged US and British factories to lower tar and nicotine levels urgently.

"They have to do it or they could lose a lucrative market," said Jawad.

The main potential threat to traditional suppliers comes from Japanese brands, which have not so far been a success in the region because the Gulf smoker likes a throat-grating nicotine infection. Most mild Japanese tobacco is within the new limits, dealers said.

Hope Authorities hope the campaign will cut the number of smokers but, while in the short-term companies could lose money, many smokers think that in the long-run it will not make much difference.

"Smokers will get used to the new tar and nicotine levels," said a Rothmans dealer.

An average packet of 20 cigarettes now cost the equivalent of one dollar but dealers said that even a hefty price increase might not be enough to dissuade many smokers in the high-income GCC.

Hisham Jalal, a two packets-a-day man, said the new regulations would not make him quit smoking. "If I wanted to quit, I would have done it a long time ago," he said.

## Action Line

WHAT is the present status of end of service benefits to a private sector employee: when his services are terminated and when he resigns? We are private sector employees working for the last eight years. We would like to know how we will benefit if we resign now?

Faisal A. Habeeb and Mohammed Nazir Safat

YOU have not clarified your employment terms and conditions. However, the Private Sector Labour Law No. 38, 1964, defines end of service benefits. Article 54 of the law stipulates "(a) for labourers working on daily, weekly or hourly basis, the indemnity is as follows: ten days wages for each year for the first five years of service; and 15 days wages for every year thereafter. (b) for employees on monthly salaries the indemnity is as follows: 15 days wages for every year of service in the first five years; and a month's wages for every one year of service for the following years. The total indemnity shall not exceed one and a half years of wages."

If someone is a contract employee, the end of service benefits will be governed by the above rules but determined by the terms of employment stated in the contract.

If a wife on a dependent's visa overstays outside Kuwait due to a medical reason or some other reason not known before departure, what is the procedure to revive her residence permit. Please explain if there are any restrictions on the number of months a dependent can stay outside Kuwait.

Syed Mohammad Farwaniya

IMMIGRATION rules stipulate that no expatriate can stay outside the country for more than six months. If someone intends to stay longer, prior permission must be obtained from the Ministry of the Interior. If such permission has not been obtained, a visa is automatically cancelled after six months.

If a person is unable to return within six months due to illness, that person must produce documents proving illness from the hospital where he/she underwent treatment. The document must be attested by the Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs in the person's country of origin, and submitted to the Kuwait embassy for attestation. The documents must be forwarded to Kuwait and submitted by a relative to the Ministry of the Interior. If all the documents submitted are complete, the Department of Immigration may consider the request to allow the wife to enter the country. However, the department of immigration reserves the right to reject such an application on any grounds they deem fit.

CAN a visa be provided by a hotel for a female guest who wants to visit Kuwait?

J.F. Safat

THE Meridien Hotel's Public Relations Manager Youssef Al Ghabra said a visa can be arranged for a female guest provided she stays at their hotel. The applicant has to give the intended duration of stay, passport photocopy and her address in the country of origin. However, the final approval of a visa is subject to immigration rules.

WHAT are the rules for obtaining a visit visa and on what grounds can a visa application be rejected. And what is the salary ceiling for applying for a visit visa?

Joseph Fernandes Safat

Khawaja Mazharuddin Mima Al Zoor

IN principle, visit visas, valid for one month, are issued to an individual sponsor, irrespective of the expatriate's monthly salary; such visas can be obtained for relatives. A sponsor must submit a photocopy of the visitor's passport, photographs of the visitor and a completed visa application form provided by the Department of Immigration. These must be submitted in person by the sponsor to the department. On demand the sponsor must show his passport, salary certificate and Civil ID card and a photocopy of the ID. The Department of Immigration reserves the right to reject an application without specifying a reason.

READERS responded swiftly to Action Line, an information column introduced by Arab Times last week and which will appear every Saturday. We welcome your queries. And we will provide precise information about rules, as stated by the government. Ministries are responsible for implementing and interpreting rules. However, we regret to inform you that we cannot solve individual problems through "wasta," as suggested by some readers.

If you have a query, need clarification of rules pertaining to, for example, immigration or communication, or want to get in touch with someone and can't find an address, we'll try to help you find the answers. So, drop in a line to Action Line, Arab Times, PO Box 2270, 13023, Safat, Kuwait, or fax your questions to us on Tel: 4846905 or 4847495 or call 4813566 ext. 285.

## Iraqi technical team to visit Kuwait

Follow-up on water project

AN Iraqi technical delegation will visit Kuwait next May to follow up on contacts regarding a Kuwaiti-Iraqi agreement to supply Kuwait with fresh and brackish water from Iraq and electricity transmission from Kuwait to Iraq, according to an official source.

On the total blackout in Kuwait on Dec 13, Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Homoud Al Rqobah was quoted as saying that six ministry officials have been suspended which included two assistant undersecretaries. The official denied that the suspended undersecretaries had submitted their resignations to the minister which have not as yet been accepted.

The assistant undersecretaries who have been suspended have been identified as Saud Al Dirbas and Sadeq Bu Hamad.

The technical report prepared by the ministry on the blackout will be debated by a judicial committee comprising members of the cabinet. Their judgement will be final, Rqobah added.



## MIDEAST BRIEFS

## Egypt readmitted to Arabsat

NICOSIA, March 31. (Reuters): Egypt was readmitted to the Arab League's satellite communications organisation, Arabsat, on Thursday despite Libya's reservations, a Omani minister said.

Oman's Posts and Telecommunications Minister Ahmed Bin Suwaidan Al Baloushi said after an Arabsat meeting in Muscat that Egypt was readmitted.

He told the Oman News Agency, received in Nicosia, that Libya was the only member to voice doubts.

Egypt was suspended from the 22-member Arab League in 1979 and all its organisations for making peace with Israel. All Arab states except Libya, Syria and Lebanon have now resumed ties with Cairo and it has gradually returned to key Arab League bodies.

## Support for Palestinian state

ROME, March 31. (Reuters): More than half of Italy's senators have signed a parliamentary motion urging the government to recognise an independent Palestinian state, politicians have said.

Guido Pollice, senator for the small left-wing Proletarian Democracy Party, said 197 of the 315 members of the Senate (upper house) had signed the petition which he hoped would be debated before the end of April.

A similar motion sponsored by the PDP is expected to be debated in the Chamber of Deputies (lower house).

Italy has welcomed the more moderate line taken recently by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat but has stopped short of recognising the independent state proclaimed by the Palestinian National Council last November.

## Pan Am bomb link denied

DAMASCUS, March 31. (Reuters): A Radical Palestinian guerrilla leader again denied involvement in the bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet which exploded over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in December killing 270 people.

Ahmed Jibril, leader of the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), named in some Western media reports as being behind the explosion, said the blast has nothing to do with his group.

He said in an interview with the Al Mawqef Al Arabi magazine, due to be published next week, that the United States and Israel were trying to link the PFLP-GC with the bombing because of the group's anti-American policies.

## King Fahd praised

CAIRO, March 31. (Reuters): Hisham Gad, an eight-year-old with a boy's smile and a man's kidney, thanked Saudi Arabia's King Fahd for a \$10 million clinic that could save thousands of others with similar medical problems.

The greeting was made at the inauguration of Egypt's first Integrated Kidney Unit, donated by the Saudi monarch.

Gad, the second child to get a kidney transplant in Egypt, gave King Fahd and President Hosni Mubarak gladiolus bouquets as doctors and nurses of the new centre looked on.

"We must thank his majesty and give him flowers for his great deed," Gad said. Gad received his father's kidney nine months ago at another hospital.

## Ship runs aground in Gulf

MANAMA, Bahrain, March 31. (AP): The British frigate HMS Hermione, responding to a distress signal, reported today that a Maltese-flag vessel had hit an underwater obstruction in the Gulf but was in no danger of sinking.

The 18,500-ton, Greek-owned Atlas, a fresh-water tender serving Gulf oil rigs, had reported at 8.40 am (0440 GMT) that it had lost its steering and its engine room was flooded after an apparent explosion.

"She is now safe. The indications are that she ran aground," a Royal Navy spokesman in London said after the Hermione reached the scene near the UAE port of Jebel Ali, in the southern Gulf.

## Israel bars interim schooling

UNITED NATIONS, March 31. (Reuters): Israel, citing military security, has barred measures to provide basic education for the youngest pupils while most UN schools in the occupied West Bank are closed, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) has said.

Israel closed West Bank schools because of the 15-month-old Palestinian uprising.

## Troops to pull back from Nicosia ceasefire lines

NICOSIA, March 31. (Reuters): Armed Greek and Turkish-Cypriot soldiers are to pull back from ceasefire lines, according to an agreement reached yesterday.

Both Greek and Turkish-Cypriots, will vacate 12 observation posts each in three areas of Cyprus.

UN peacekeeping force Chief of Staff Brigadier Walter Courage said the UN soldiers would increase the number of their observation posts and step up patrols.

He said the agreement would not affect the ceasefire lines nor the buffer zone between them. Both sides would be allowed to carry out maintenance work on the posts they vacated.

Cyprus has been divided since Turkish troops occupied the northern third in 1974 in the wake of an abortive coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta.

Cypriot President George Vassiliou said yesterday Greece and Cyprus have agreed to co-ordinate action in their search for a solution to the Cypriot problem.

Vassiliou met Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu at lunch yesterday.

He told reporters he had discussed with Papandreu details of the ongoing negotiations he was holding with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş on the reunification of north and south Cyprus.

## Canadian envoy meets PLO official

UNITED NATIONS, March 31. (UPI): Canadian and Palestinian diplomats held their first official meeting less than half an hour after Ottawa announced it was lifting a ban on high-level contacts with the PLO.

Canadian UN Ambassador Yves Fortier and PLO Deputy Ambassador Nasser Al Kidwa

met for 20 minutes yesterday at Canada's UN mission.

The session marked the first ambassadorial-level meeting between Canada and the PLO and came less than 30 minutes after Ottawa announced it was lifting the ban.

"Our objective is to concentrate on the peace process in the

Middle East," Fortier said. "I'll be free to talk to the PLO and search for a meaningful solution."

Joe Clark, secretary of state for External Affairs and a former prime minister, announced the government's new policy in Ottawa, but said Canada still does not recognise the indepen-

dent state the PLO declared in November.

Clark also emphasised that the government's support for Israel remains unchanged.

But the move was condemned by the independent Canada-Israel committee, which said Canada has joined the "general stampede" to grant the PLO

credibility. The group said the PLO continues to work for Israel's destruction.

Al Kidwa said after his meeting with Fortier that the PLO appreciated the Canadian government's decision and will seek the "highest possible" contacts with Ottawa to develop a Canadian role in the Middle East.



Clark: new policy

## Mullahs worried

## Debate over Iran's future

BAHRAIN, March 31. (Agencies): Iran's worried ruling mullahs debated the future of their theocracy a day after spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini forced his designated successor to resign, Iranian sources said.

"There are great divisions among the ruling mullahs, who are at this moment debating in Qom and Tehran the future of the revolution after Khomeini's latest move," an Iranian businessman with contacts in Tehran said.

Iran's President Ali Khamenei said today that Khomeini demonstrated that he acted in Islam's interests by removing his own heir-apparent.

In the first comment by an Iranian leader on Khomeini's move against Montazeri, Khamenei said it showed Islam was uppermost for Khomeini.

The ousting of Khomeini's heir, 66-year-old Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri, came two days after an emergency meeting in Tehran in which Khomeini and leaders of the council of experts, which picks the state leader, held a round of crisis talks.

Mullahs gathered on Wednesday in Qom, the spiritual base of Khomeini's revolution, remained deeply divided over government's policies after the ouster of Montazeri.

"Khomeini has already ordered the execution of some mullahs in Qom, but the debate continues... There are many who oppose his style and vision of the future of Iran as closed off from the rest of the world," the Iranian said in a telephone interview.

Moderate factions led by Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani prefer to see Iran develop normal ties with the West as part of efforts to boost the country's war-shattered and inflation-riddled economy. But hardliners such as Premier Hussein Musavi oppose such contacts for fear they will contaminate and dilute Iran's unique Islamic experiment.

Gulf diplomats said Khomeini personally ordered the resignation of Montazeri in the biggest political shake-up Tehran has since the Aug 20 ceasefire in the war with Iraq.

The diplomats said Khomeini has become increasingly alarmed at what he perceives to be a softening of his fiery brand of Islamic fundamentalism within the Qom-based ruling clergy.

Khomeini's ouster of Montazeri paralysed Tehran's official media on Wednesday and laid the future of the Iranian theocracy wide open for the first time since the early days of the revolution.

Khomeini has not named a new successor, indicating to some observers his latest move may have been taken in haste.

The main Iranian opposition group has claimed that the country's Ambassador to the United Nations, Mohammad Jafar Mahallati, was jailed last week on orders from Khomeini.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati flew to Moscow saying Tehran favoured expanded ties with the Soviet Union. He held talks today with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze.

Iran declared the Swiss consul in Tehran persona non grata yesterday and ordered him to leave within a week, Tehran Radio reported. The Iranian consul-general in Geneva returned home following accusations by the Swiss government that he was engaged in espionage and arms trafficking.

## Egypt's return to Arab fold certain

(Continued from Page 1)

Mubarak and Fahd reaffirmed that an international conference is needed to pull together parties including the PLO and the UN Security Council's five permanent members. That's "the only formula" that could lead to a solution, the document said.

King Fahd and Mubarak urged calm in Lebanon, where



A Palestinian boy with a hood on his face, holds stones and waves a Palestinian flag as a tyre burns. The boy was at a road barricade in a West Bank village where a 20-year-old Palestinian was earlier shot dead by Israeli soldiers. (Reuters wirephoto)

## 3 die in Land Day protests

## Explosion in Tel Aviv

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, March 31. (Agencies): Violence during "Land Day" protests which left three Palestinians dead and at least 33 wounded could make Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's visit to the United States next week even more difficult than anticipated.

"If it creates a certain additional burden in terms of public opinion — it does," a senior Israeli official said.

But he added: "Does it change the picture? It does not. We are facing a tough picture, and it does not look like it is getting better."

The Israeli Army today eased restrictions on Palestinians, permitting traffic to resume between the West Bank and Israel and lifting a general curfew imposed on the seaside Gaza Strip.

Close to 180,000 Gazans, however, remained under curfew in six refugee camps and neighbourhoods.

In some areas of Gaza city, Muslim worshippers burned tyres after the noon prayers, shouting "Allahu Akbar" (God is great). The Army dispersed them with tear-gas, Arab witnesses said.

In the Tel Aviv suburb of Petah Tikva, meanwhile, a bomb exploded near a synagogue, damaging a parked car. Israel Radio said. No injuries were reported.

The radio said a resident notified the police about a suspicious object, but sappers arrived after the explosion. Twenty Arabs in the area were detained for questioning, it reported. A police spokesman was not immediately available for comment.

Yesterday's death in Land Day protests on both sides of Israel's pre-1967 borders bring the Palestinian death toll to at least 418 in the 15-month revolt against Israeli military rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Seventeen Israelis have died.

The official said the latest violence was bound to make Shamir's already hard job of explaining Israel's policies in the occupied territories to the Bush administration more difficult.

Despite a massive troop presence, Palestinian nationalist protest erupted throughout the West Bank yesterday.

Some of the worst fighting of the 14-year civil war has erupted in the past two weeks. They praised the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war and called for a complete and just settlement of the conflict.

The statement said Egypt and Saudi Arabia agreed to establish a joint committee to increase co-operation in several specific fields, including trade, transport, insurance and cultural relations.

## Battle for Jalalabad

## Rebels intensify attack

KABUL, March 31. (Agencies): Afghan guerrillas have intensified their attacks on the eastern city of Jalalabad after receiving new arms supplies from Pakistan, the Afghan government charged.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said opposition forces bombarded the government-held city and surrounding area with more than 8,000 rounds of rockets and other heavy weapons in the 24-hour period ending at sundown yesterday.

He claimed government forces "pushed back the attacks and consolidated their positions."

The guerrillas, whose headquarters are across the border in Pakistan, have been besieging Jalalabad since March 6.

Amani claimed that 84 opposition fighters, including four advisers from a Mideast state and an unspecified number of Pakistani troops, were killed in the last 24 hours in the Jalalabad region. He said one Afghan Army soldier and five civilians also were killed.

There was no way to independently verify the casualty figures. The rebels have received backing from the United States, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, but each has denied any direct military involvement in Afghanistan.

The rebel-controlled Afghan News Agency said yesterday that 147 government troops had been killed in fighting throughout the country this week.

It said at least 114 government troops were killed or wounded in heavy fighting since Tuesday around Jalalabad. It also reported guerrilla operations at the country's second-largest city of

Kandahar to the southeast, the city of Herat in the west and in northern provinces bordering the Soviet Union.

Amani did not say how close the guerrillas were to Jalalabad.

Afghanistan accused Pakistan yesterday of planning to give chemical weapons to Afghan guerrillas.

A national radio broadcast said Islamabad had bought the weapons on the free market in Europe, and a Foreign Ministry spokesman said a formal complaint had been made to the United Nations representatives in Afghanistan.

"The Pakistan military intelligence agencies want to equip the opposition with chemical weapons bought on the free market in Europe," said the Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Quoting "security sources" infiltrated inside the opposition, he said the weapons included bacterial, chemical and other poisonous types, but was not more specific.

The spokesman told reporters the Pakistanis were threatening to introduce chemical weapons because the mujahedeen had failed to make progress during their 26-day assault on Jalalabad.

An Afghan rebel leader said today that the mujahedeen need more financial backing in order to overthrow Afghan government.

Jalaluddin Hakkani, a guerrilla commander in the eastern Paktia province, told reporters in Abu Dhabi that funds also were essential to reconstruct war-damaged areas and resettle refugees.

## Iraqi illiterates barred from elections

BAGHDAD, March 31. (Reuters): Iraq has told 42 illiterate parliamentary candidates that they have been disbarred from standing in tomorrow's general elections.

A statement by the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) said candidates who did not know how to read and write had been dropped from the list of 952 people contesting the 250 seats in the National Assembly.

Virtually any Iraqi loyal to the principles of the Baathist revolution had been eligible to stand in the

elections, Iraq's first since last August's ceasefire in the war with Iran.

RCC Vice-Chairman Izzat Ibrahim said yesterday that the new assembly would ratify a new permanent constitution to replace a 20-year-old provisional one.

On the eve of the elections Iraq today paraded before gathered newsmen several of its recently freed prisoners who narrated tales of torture and mistreatment at the hands of Iranian camp guards.

## A TEDDY BEAR'S TALE

(CHAPTER 2)



Surprisingly, the teddy bear enjoyed his underwater experience. He felt he was in a huge swimming pool. And he swam with the smooth spinning motion of the water. The washing machine was indeed gentle. It never warped the teddy bear's fur.

Like anybody else, the teddy bear became curious to find out the brand of the washing machine. Chapter 3 on page 7 has that story.

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51 Business Management	57 Microcomputer Repair	06 Electrician
with option in Finance	05 Hotel Restaurant Mgmt.	29 Police Sciences
UN peacekeeping force Chief of Staff Brigadier Walter Courage said the UN soldiers would increase the number of their observation posts and step up patrols.	14 Air Conditioning & Heating	09 Legal Secretary
He said the agreement would not affect the ceasefire lines nor the buffer zone between them. Both sides would be allowed to carry out maintenance work on the posts they vacated.	12 Interior Decorating	55 Diesel Mechanics
Cyprus has been divided since Turkish troops occupied the northern third in 1974 in the wake of an abortive coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta.	59 Fashion Merchandising	87 TV/VCR Repair
Cypriot President George Vassiliou said yesterday Greece and Cyprus have agreed to co-ordinate action in their search for a solution to the Cypriot problem.	33 Motorcycle Repair	03 Cold Day Care
Vassiliou met Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu at lunch yesterday.	32 Surveying & Mapping	85 Drafting
He told reporters he had discussed with Papandreu details of the ongoing negotiations he was holding with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş on the reunification of north and south Cyprus.	94 Fitness & Nutrition	36 Travel Agent
Cyprus has been divided since Turkish troops occupied the northern third in 1974 in the wake of an abortive coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta.	19 Veterinary Assistant	2604 Architecture
Cypriot President George Vassiliou said yesterday Greece and Cyprus have agreed to co-ordinate action in their search for a solution to the Cypriot problem.	146 Practical English	161 Engineering
He told reporters he had discussed with Papandreu details of the ongoing negotiations he was holding with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş on the reunification of north and south Cyprus.	2608 Building Trades	40 Photography
Cyprus has been divided since Turkish troops occupied the northern third in 1974 in the wake of an abortive coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta.	105 General Business	41 Journalism-Short Story Writing
Cypriot President George Vassiliou said yesterday Greece and Cyprus have agreed to co-ordinate action in their search for a solution to the Cypriot problem.	89 Small Engine Repair	42 Dressmaking & Design

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## EDITORIALS

## ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

FOR every minute you are angry, you lose 60 seconds of happiness — Ralph Waldo Emerson, US writer (1803-1882).

## Afghan complexity

## Shifting loyalties

By Hugh Palm

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan, (Reuters): General Esmatullah Muslim flings a fistful of notes which cascade around the feet of a dancing girl.

Reclining on cushions in a smoke-filled room, in a style befitting a warlord, Muslim and his men are celebrating Nowruz, the spring festival ushering in the New Year in Afghanistan and Iran.

Even by Afghan standards, Muslim is a notable character — the twists of his career demonstrate that the struggle between the Afghan government and the rebels is far less clear-cut than Moscow or Washington might wish to believe.

An Army officer under King Zahir Shah who was deposed in 1973, Muslim also served the subsequent Afghan republic and then the people's republic, rising to the rank of colonel before defecting to the mujahideen rebels in 1979.

Operating near his home territory of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan under the nominal leadership of Syed Ahmed Gailani, a US-backed moderate, by 1981 Muslim had become a serious nuisance to the Soviet soldiers who had trained him.

But in 1983, when rival guerrilla groups refused to give him access to US-supplied arms, he began to take them by force.

The following year, in a major coup for the Moscow-backed People's Democratic Party movement, he switched sides again and was made militia commander of Kandahar.

With perhaps 2,000 men he dominated the area south of Kandahar towards the Pakistan border as his own fiefdom.

In November, 1987, Muslim attended the Loyal Jirga — a traditional assembly called by the government but ignored by the mujahideen.

Told he could not enter while armed, Muslim took offence and tried to shoot his way in. Later in the day soldiers were sent to arrest him at his home, more shooting broke out and 23 people were killed. Muslim himself was wounded in the foot.

Yet within a year he was back in Kandahar, an honorary general in the Afghan forces, although he now prefers the rank of marshal he has conferred upon himself.

Muslim's exploits are understandable in Afghanistan, whose history is littered with warlords who fought with or against fabled conquerors such as Genghis Khan and Tamerlane the Great.

He is an echo of such warriors: ruthless with his enemies, who may tomorrow be his friends, brave in battle but ready to join the other side if circumstances demand it.

Recently he has been sighted watching the Friday open-air dog fights in Kabul, throwing his raucous New Year party in Mazar-e-Sharif and attending a game of Buzkashi, the Afghan national sport, which involves large numbers of horsemen battling to capture a dead goat.

In all these appearances he is greeted with awe but also affection. Muslim says he is 52, likes to boast of his 72 wounds — all on the front of his body, he insists, and the many wives he has had: the figure varies but is usually around 10.

The morning after his party he was seen walking with his latest wife on his arm, a video camera recording his progress and a pair of bodyguards in attendance.

He has probably no role to play in a political settlement in his country, whichever side he finds himself on.

But arguably it is not by learning to understand men such as Esmatullah Muslim that outsiders can begin to grasp the complexity, and the tragedy, of Afghanistan.

## Press review

## US urged to help win peace

WASHINGTON, (KUNA): Since the Soviet pullout from war-ravaged Afghanistan US policies have proven murky, the Christian Science Monitor says, arguing the US should now help the Afghans "win the peace."

Among its recommendations to the Bush administration in the "chaotic" post-occupation period, the newspaper cited US failure to "orchestrate" the makeup of the replacement government after the expected fall of the pro-Soviet Najibullah regime, even if "Islamic fundamentalists" in the rebel coalition dominate and are unrepresentative. It also noted that Washington has not earmarked funds for "institution building, especially to bolster democratic traditions."

The paper noted that trying to achieve the US' stated goal of self-determination for the Afghans, would be hard, considering the presence of a "faction-ridden interim government patched together by the resistance forces."

"Washington will count its blessings if (ultimately) the country doesn't regard Westerners as infidels," the Monitor asserted.

And the editorial concluded: "Helping the fiercely independent Afghans win a war was the easy part. Now the US must try to help them win the peace."

## Mitterrand's decision praised

PARIS, (KUNA): The French economic daily "Les Echos" has welcomed President Francois Mitterrand's decision to receive PLO chairman Yasser Arafat in Paris, on a date yet to be fixed.

The decision was described as "courageous" by the newspaper which noted that "by listening perhaps to those among his Jewish friends more open to a dialogue with the PLO new formula, the French head of state is undeniably giving a new additional impetus to the peace process."

According to the daily, President Mitterrand "is not only granting the Palestinian organisation the respectability much expected by Yasser Arafat, but he is also giving a push to his friend Hosni Mubarak who will be, in a few days, in the United States to plead for the Palestinian cause."

## TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1572 — Start of Dutch war for independence.
- 1578 — England's Queen Elizabeth I offers to mediate between Don John of Austria and Dutch, hoping for peace in the Netherlands.
- 1666 — French forces capture St. Kitts, Leeward Island, West Indies, from England.
- 1852 — Second Burma war breaks out after British ultimatum to king of Burma.
- 1867 — East India Company rule in Malay Straits settlements ends, and they become crown colony of Britain.
- 1914 — Civil government is established in Panama Canal Zone.
- 1918 — Britain's Royal Air Force is founded.
- 1922 — South Africa denounces Mozambique convention.
- 1933 — Persecution of Jews begins in Germany.
- 1937 — India constitution goes into effect but All-India Party abstains from forming government, demanding complete independence.
- 1945 — US forces launch invasion of Okinawa in World War II.
- 1948 — Soviet Union begins to interfere with traffic between Berlin and West Germany.
- 1960 — South African government bans African National Congress and Pan-African Congress.
- 1962 — Swiss referendum rejects manufacture or importation of atomic weapons.
- 1964 — Francois Duvalier has himself installed as president of Haiti for life.
- 1988 — Sikh gunmen go on murder spree across India's Punjab state and kill 37 people, including 7 children, police and witness say.

## Iranian purge throws relations into doldrums

## Prospect for opening to West dim

By Jim Wolf

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): Iran's leadership upheaval has set back prospects for improved diplomatic ties with the West and the speedy release of US hostages held by pro-Iranian hardliners in Lebanon, regional experts said.

Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, purged his designated successor Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri in the biggest shakeup since the Islamic Revolution began 10 years ago. Iran's envoy to the United Nations, Mohammad Jafar Mahallati, also resigned on Tuesday, two days after Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani handed in his resignation. Larijani, educated in the United States, had promoted better relations with Western countries.

Montazeri's downfall, made public in Tehran on Tuesday, appeared to be a major victory for hardline associates of Khomeini.

These include Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi and Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who advocate a militant anti-Western foreign policy and strict economic controls.

Iran's relations with the West have been rocky since the Islamic Revolution, and the United States has often been singled out by Khomeini as "satanic and world-devouring."

Diplomatic ties with Washington were broken after students seized the US embassy in Tehran, taking 53 hostages, in November 1979. Ronald Reagan won the US presidency in 1980 partly because Jimmy Carter had failed to gain the release of the hostages held captive for more than a year.

Since Iran implemented a ceasefire in its eight-year war with Iraq last August it has resumed or upgraded relations with France, Britain, Canada and Kuwait.

Some Iranian newspapers have also argued for renewed ties with Washington to boost Iran's position in the region and help to repair war damage, but US overtures were rejected by Khomeini. Gary Sick, an adviser on Iran to three former US presidents, said the purge would interrupt the recent trend toward a more moderate, less anti-Western, stance.

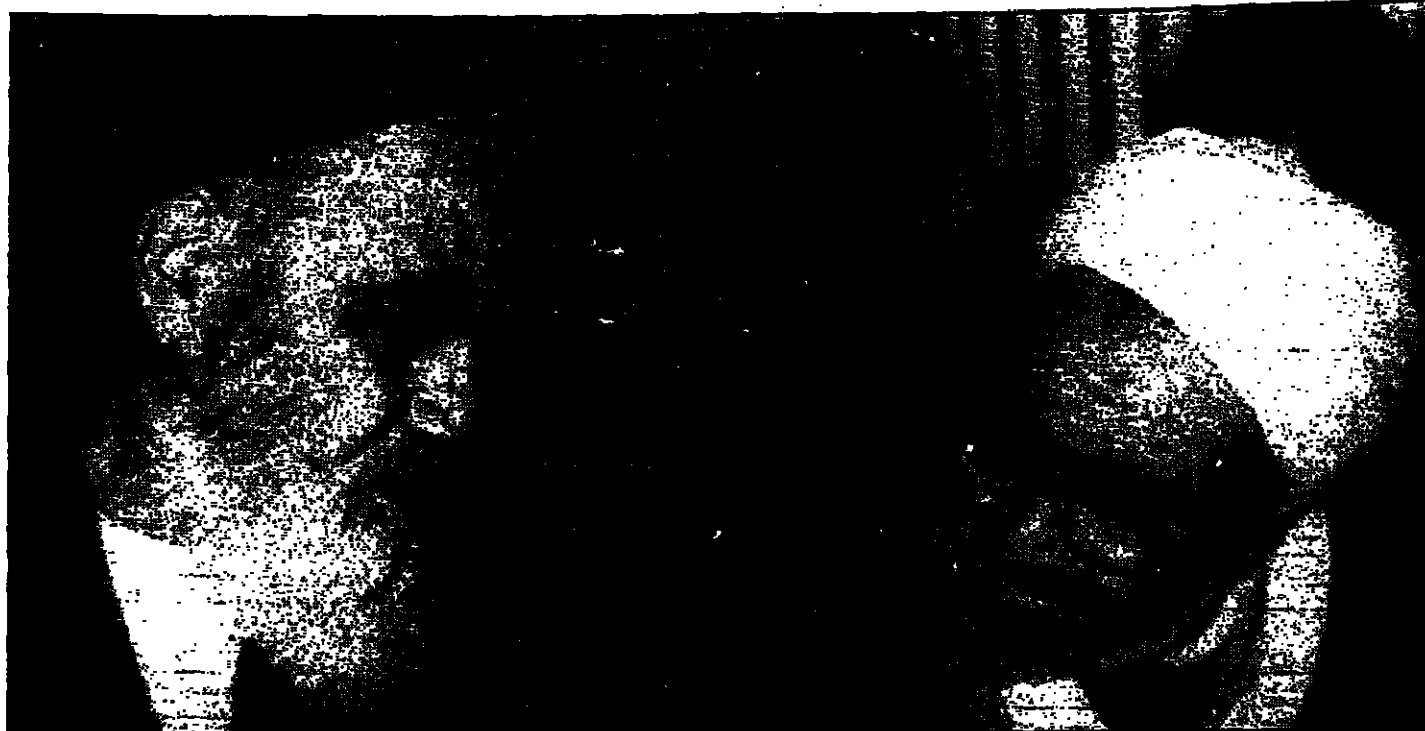
"For the moment the issue is one of confrontation and Iran is entering a much more radical phase in its politics," he said.

The stage for the upheaval was set after Khomeini ordered the assassination last month of Salman Rushdie, the British author of "The Satanic Verses," on the grounds that the book blasphemed Islam.

When 14 Western nations withdrew their ambassadors to protest against the death sentence, Khomeini said it proved the futility of normalising relations.

The pressing issue for the United States is the holding of 10 American hostages by pro-Iranians in Lebanon.

Robert Kupperman, a counter-terrorism expert at the Centre for Strategic and International



Khomeini and Montazeri (right) in the good old days.

## Rafsanjani may be the ultimate victor

By Ralph Joseph

ATHENS, (UPI): Ayatollah Khomeini's dismissal of his appointed successor as Iran's spiritual leader could lead to greater authority for the Speaker of Parliament, who combines moderation in foreign policy with a radical stance at home.

Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri's resignation Tuesday ended one chapter in a five-year internecine struggle between leading clerics to succeed the volatile Khomeini, 88. It opens the way, however, for a new round of harsh clerical-political warfare in the struggle to lead Iran after the ailing Khomeini dies.

For the Speaker of Parliament, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a serious rival for power has been removed. There appears to be no one of his stature to take over the country after Khomeini dies — if not as spiritual leader, at least in a strengthened presidency, an office Rafsanjani is expected to run for this summer.

Rafsanjani has often been regarded by foreign analysts as the moderate or pragmatist in the perplexing, wildly gyrating lineup of potential post-Khomeini leaders of Iran. That view has considerable validity when seen through the prism of foreign policy, but he is ever the radical on the homefront.

He was at the forefront of abortive Iranian efforts three years ago to improve relations with the United States, which led to the Iran-Contra crisis for the Reagan administration. He also led Iran's "Open to West" after last year's ceasefire in the eight-year Iran-Iraq war.

Although Khomeini has now apparently rebuffed that policy, there is little evidence that Rafsanjani, who is also deputy commander-in-chief of the armed forces, has lost the confidence of Khomeini.

A report that Khomeini has tried to contest Rafsanjani's military authority through the appointment of a personal representative to the

phased Islam. When 14 Western nations withdrew their ambassadors to protest against the death sentence, Khomeini said it proved the futility of normalising relations.

The pressing issue for the United States is the holding of 10 American hostages by pro-Iranians in Lebanon.

Robert Kupperman, a counter-terrorism expert at the Centre for Strategic and International

Revolutionary Guard troops is mainly linked to the anti-government mujahideen guerrillas in Baghdad. They have their own axe to grind against the speaker, since he reportedly backed harsh steps against the remnants of the mujahideen in Iran.

Even though anything seems possible in the topsy-turvy world of Iran's Islamic politics, one sign of Rafsanjani's continued influence is that he is still friendly with Khomeini's son Ahmad, a shadowy power behind the scenes.

Some of that appeal is undoubtedly linked to Rafsanjani's radicalism at home. He still controls powerful factions among the Revolutionary Guards charged with "spreading the revolution" and does not stop at using executions as a political weapon.

Rafsanjani apparently proved more astute than Montazeri in the infighting of the last couple months.

Desperately needing to clip Montazeri's wings before Khomeini dies, Rafsanjani reportedly manoeuvred for the key council of experts to propose that a "council of leadership," consisting of three or five high-ranking clerics, should succeed Khomeini.

In February, Montazeri infuriated Khomeini as Iran celebrated the 10th anniversary of the revolution by criticising the Islamic republic's performance. He said the government had not lived up to its objectives and that the war with Iraq was a waste.

Khomeini replied with his own message broadcast on Tehran radio, refuting Montazeri point by point. Montazeri's formal removal as Khomeini's "designated successor" was not long in coming.

Montazeri, a squeaky-voiced cleric with a parochial outlook, had little general support to fall back on. The lay public scoffed at him, referring to him as "Gorbah Narbeh" (Tomcat), after a comical cat in a popular Japanese television serial shown in Iran.

"This is a time for the United States to stand back and simply let this thing take its course," he said. "And I would expect that, exactly what our policy is going to be because we just don't have any other policy tools for dealing with it."

Shireen Hunter, another Iranian affairs specialist, said the United States "should avoid playing into the hands of the radicals." Some hardliners tend to be pro-Soviet, partly because

the Soviet Union appears to be, less threatening, she said.

Judith Kipper, a Middle East specialist at Brookings, said major political adjustments were inevitable as factions jockeyed to ready themselves for post-Khomeini Iran.

Montazeri, 64, had been a staunch advocate of civil rights and greater economic freedom, but Kipper said it was not clear exactly what had prompted Khomeini to dump him.

## Vying for White House support on Mideast peace

US policy characterised by caution

By John Fullerton

CAIRO, (Reuters): Two Arab leaders and an intransigent Israeli will carry the problems of the Middle East to President George Bush's White House in the next few weeks.

Diplomats say the new US administration has so far been characterised by caution. There is no sign that Bush is ready for a more active role in Middle East peacemaking.

But Arab expectations have been raised by a 15-month Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-ruled West Bank and Gaza Strip and by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's statements recognising Israel's right to exist and renouncing terrorism.

Diplomats say that in their separate visits Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein of Jordan will try to persuade Bush to inject a sense of urgency into the administration's cautious approach to the region.

For his part, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is expected to urge his US ally to remain wary, stressing the high risks to be run in open-ended peace negotiations with Arab partners whom many right-wing Israelis regard as unreliable.

The wrangling has already begun, with Shamir trying to seize the initiative by calling for a meeting with Mubarak at the White House to commemorate the signing of the 1979 Egypt-Israel peace treaty 10 years ago last Sunday.

Mubarak, who leaves for Washington on Sunday, has said he is prepared to travel to Israel and meet Shamir — but only if he detects positive progress in Israeli policy.

The Egyptian leader and King Hussein argue that concessions by the PLO provide a window of opportunity to set up an international peace conference under the auspices of the UN Security Council.

For the Arab leaders, timing is critical. They fear that delay will only serve the interests of militant Palestinians and their backers in Syria and Libya opposed to compromise.

"The two (Arab leaders) will tell Bush the United States has to move and take up its responsibility by convincing Israelis to accept the conference," said an Arab diplomat in Amman.

"They will go on pushing for PLO participation," he added.

Israeli commentators say Shamir goes to Washington in firm control of his government but under strong world pressure to move from his "three noes" — "no" to any land-for-peace formula, "no" to talks with the PLO, "no" to a Palestinian state.

The Jerusalem Post diplomatic correspondent Menachem Shalev says Shamir is at the height of his domestic power after last November's general election, in which he forced his Labour Party coalition partners into a subordinate cabinet role.

But pressure is growing for movement in the peace process, underlined by US Secretary of State James Baker's call this

week for Shamir to bring new ideas to Washington.

Opinion polls have shown a slight majority of Israelis favour talks with the PLO.

A military intelligence report leaked to the media last week said Israel would have to negotiate with the PLO if it wanted to end the Palestinian uprising.

The Soviet Union has meanwhile, brought a fresh element of superpower competition to the Middle East, offering to broker a conference and promising to renew ties with Israel if it shows itself ready to negotiate with the Palestinians.

The 73-year-old Shamir has shown no signs of budging on central issues, and aides say he will propose local elections in the occupied territories leading to an interim agreement on self-rule.

Sceptical observers say Shamir hopes the PLO would reject any local elections, driving a wedge between Arafat and Washington, and possibly ending the new US-PLO dialogue, which Shamir strongly opposes.

The former underground fighter's approach is legalistic, based on a premise that a framework already exists in the form of the Camp David accords signed by Israel and Egypt in 1978.

For King Hussein and Mubarak, the accords are a dead letter, and they believe new circumstances demand a new forum — an international conference with the

PLO as a full participant.

The two leaders, together with Arafat, co-ordinated their strategy at a mini-summit in the Suez Canal town of Ismailia last Saturday, and a visit to Egypt this week by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has further strengthened Mubarak's hand.

Egypt's close ties with Washington, its moderating influence on the PLO and businesslike links with Moscow provide Mubarak with a special role as spokesman for mainstream Arab opinion.

"I think he (Mubarak) has played a tremendous role in opening up the peace process and establishing a dialogue between the PLO and the United States," said Ashraf Ghorbal, who was Egyptian ambassador to Washington under President Anwar Sadat.

King Hussein handed over responsibility for the West Bank's administration to the PLO last July, but he continues to see Jordan as an important partner in reviving the peace process.

For both Mubarak and King Hussein, their Achilles heel is economic, and diplomats say their haste to gain a breakthrough in peace is linked to the need for relief from runaway inflation at home and massive foreign debt.

The most vital part of Egypt's \$43 billion debt is 4.5 billion owed to US arms supplies. Under US law, grants will cease if arrears extend beyond one year. Egypt is not making payments, and the deadline falls in mid-July.

## Staying alive in Beirut is a miracle

By Riad Kaj

BEIRUT, (UPI): During a recent lull in fighting, children ventured out of shell-pocked houses in Tayyouneh, a neighbourhood next to the "Green Line" that divides the city into Christian and Muslim sectors.

Many noisy children played football on muddy alleyways and roads, singing, yelling and engaging in mock battles with wooden rifles.

Parents made no attempt to call the children home. The area is too frequently the target of gunfire and mortar attacks.

When clashes erupt in this southern Beirut neighbourhood, Shiite Amal militiamen entrenched in demolished buildings battle Christian forces just 30 yards away. The media refer to the area as the "Tayyouneh front."

In fact, the area is packed with hundreds of Muslim and Christian families who can't afford renting a house in relatively safer areas. These are people who have no choice but to co-exist with militiamen and gunpowder.

For the residents in the war-torn area, their daily existence is much harder in some ways than that of the gunmen who fire from well-fortified positions in what is called a "war of attrition."

While militiamen can relax during occasional truces, the residents of Tayyouneh, who are among the nation's poorest, struggle ceaselessly to survive.

Sami Alameh, 58, the father of 10 children, said he has never thought of leaving the terror-filled neighbourhood because he lacks the money.

"I used to drink whisky heavily since three of my children were killed here with shrapnel and sniper fire in the beginning of the war," Alameh said, standing in a tree-shaded yard in front of his old house.

"My wife has deserted me because her deep sadness and pain turned into hatred against me," said the grey-haired, wrinkle-faced man.

Alameh had been planting vegetables in a small nearby field and one of his daughters cleaned a sewer, earning the money to buy food. He said he had been planting outside Beirut since the war.

Neither Alameh nor his daughter reacted to the sound of sniper fire or a rocket that blew up, marring an undeclared ceasefire along Beirut's three-mile "Green Line."

"I don't think this confrontation line will ever be eliminated. We (the Lebanese people) will remain divided and be a scapegoat for foreign games and conflicts," Alameh said, "so, I and many other people, have no ambitions, but to survive."

Alameh said he has tried to quit but still smokes three packs of cigarettes a day.

At a nearby partially damaged stable, used for sheltering and feeding horses, 32-year-old Al Zaayter, a porter, mumbled "welcome," as he stepped down lazily from a bed in a room filled with snell of hashish.

Zaayter has worked at the stable for 14 years. In that time, he said, more than 40 horses have been killed, injured or mutilated by shells and rockets.

"At the orders of the owner of the stable, I took the 10 horses which we look after here to eastern Lebanon. The landlord thought that the fighting will escalate madly and it will be very difficult to save the horses," he said.

The dark-skinned man has built tall barricades of sand-bags around the room.

"I hide with my wife and our two daughters in this room each time fighting erupts. When the firing ceases, we get out and check whether we got direct hits."

The city was divided into Christian East Beirut and Muslim West Beirut after savage sectarian killings took place in the civil war flare-up in 1975.

## Gorbachev faces two-front challenge on Cuba-Britain tour

By Robert Evans

MOSCOW, (Reuters): "I don't think anyone who's been there could seriously call Cuba our satellite," said a pensive Soviet diplomat just back from a visit to Havana.

"And if we ever thought it was, well, we're under no illusions now."

His remarks this week on the eve of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's first trip to Cuba may have reflected the Kremlin's changing relationship with all its communist allies.

But it also represented, in the diplomat's own words, a clear recognition that President Fidel Castro "has his own views, and whatever we say is not going to alter them."

Setting out on April 2 for Havana and London, Gorbachev will face a double challenge to the diplomatic skills he has

rapidly developed over four years at the Kremlin helm.

In Cuba, he will seek to demonstrate that his "new thinking" foreign policy does not mean and end to Moscow's commitment to the world's underprivileged peoples and nations.

In Britain, he will aim to convince Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that the Kremlin's public rejection of class war on the international stage really means an end to confrontation.

Ironically, although from their different ends of the political spectrum Castro and Thatcher have doubts on where Gorbachev is heading, the Kremlin chief enjoys excellent personal relations with both.

The Cuban President, twice in Moscow as Gorbachev's guest in the past two years, makes no secret of the fact he does

not regard the Kremlin leader's domestic, political and economic reforms as an example that Cuba should, or needs to, follow.

Three days before Gorbachev was due in Havana from New York last December, he said publicly: "We want to use our own experiments, our own ideas, our own interpretations of Marxist-Leninism."

The visit was postponed due to the earthquake in Armenia. But a Soviet official there at the time was still bemused by the speech several weeks later. "It was a warning to us, with no holds barred," he said.

There seemed little doubt in Moscow that in Havana next week Gorbachev and Castro will avoid any public or private debate on the Soviet leader's "perestroika" programme.

Instead, according to both Soviet official and Latin American diplomats, they will aim to present a common front on the problems of the developing countries.

Soviet officials indicated Gorbachev, with Castro's backing, was likely to put forward a "peace plan" for Central America aimed at demilitarising the troubled region.

Gorbachev flies from Havana to London on April 5 for his third visit to Britain. On the first, in late 1984 just before he became Communist Party chief he so impressed Thatcher that she declared: "This is a Soviet leader I can work with."

Gorbachev aides themselves make no secret of the fact that he finds her impressive as well. "In perestroika, I can't deny it, there is a little bit of Thatcherism," said one.

But the two are well apart on one of the issues at the heart of Moscow's drive for a new East-West relationship — nuclear weapons and the military stand-off in Europe.

The Soviet leader argues that modernisation by the West's NATO alliance of its short-range nuclear weapons would undercut the 1988 INF treaty between Moscow and Washington eliminating medium-range missiles on the continent.

Thatcher insists that nuclear deterrence must remain the cornerstone of Western defence policy until the East bloc's Warsaw pact cuts its conventional forces still further.

Gorbachev, clearly disappointed at what he sees as lack of response from NATO to large unilateral reductions he announced in December, is suggesting the ball is in the West's court.



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## OPEC looks set to raise output

VIENNA, March 31, (Reuters): OPEC, benefiting from sharply higher world oil prices, seems set to raise production when the group holds its next full meeting in Vienna on June 5, oil analysts and industry observers say.

"We feel they will raise quotas," said Jeremy Hudson, oil analyst at Shearson Lehman Hutton in London.

Analysts were also optimistic about the immediate price outlook: "I can't see a big move down," said Hudson.

"Brent (Britain's benchmark and the most widely traded crude) could fall to a low of \$17.50 a barrel in the second quarter (when demand traditionally slackens after the winter)."

**Exports**  
Last November the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed an output ceiling for all 13 members of 18.5 million barrels per day (BPD) for the first six months of this year, ending a period of huge oversupply and slumping prices.

Prices have soared some 50 per cent

since OPEC reined in over-production and several non-OPEC producers have pledged to help by cutting exports in the second quarter of this year.

Today Brent for June delivery traded above \$19 in the European market against lows of \$12 in late 1988.

Yesterday OPEC ended a minister monitoring committee meeting to review the performance of the world oil market, which Hudson described as "very, very encouraging."

Before the talks Kuwait Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa proposed OPEC raise the ceiling to 20 million BPD in the second half of 1989 and that Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) should have higher quotas than other members.

"The comments by the Kuwaiti minister did not damage the balance of the meeting, this is encouraging," Hudson said.

Both Gulf Arab OPEC members are seen by industry sources as over-producing. Both have said their quotas are unfairly low.

OPEC sources said Sheikh Ali was proposing that Kuwait and the UAE should share some 700,000 BPD with the remaining 800,000 BPD divided up amongst the other 11 OPEC members.

After the meeting, Sheikh Ali denied his proposal was even "a suggestion," terming it instead a flexible opinion.

**Stronger**

Hudson said statements by Iran's Oil Minister, Gholamreza Agazadeh, also suggested that an output ceiling increase was on the cards. "The remarks by the Iranian minister point to a stronger likelihood of a quota increase," he said.

Traditionally, Iran has favoured higher prices, in contrast to other OPEC members such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

But Agazadeh yesterday said the \$18 a barrel OPEC target price was likely to continue for the rest of this year.

"Iran is making it plain that it doesn't want to see prices running up strongly," Hudson said.

Since oil prices have climbed substan-

tially so far this year in response to healthy demand, and since demand growth is expected to continue, the implication is that Iran is looking to a higher output ceiling to maximise revenues, analysts said.

Geoff Pyne, oil analyst at stockbrokers UBS-Phillips and Drew, also felt a quota increase is likely in June. "OPEC has a problem if it does not raise quotas, as without an increase, there may be a gap between quotas and demand for OPEC oil."

The key question is whether any increase in the ceiling is divided up proportionately or whether some members should receive more than others as the Kuwaiti minister has proposed.

Indonesian Oil Minister Ginaandjar Kartasasmita said today: "Ideally (any quota increase) should be proportionate, but some countries have problems and we have the obligation to listen ... we must solve the emirate problem if we want a solid ground for OPEC in years to come."



Tokyo traders look over each other's shoulders to make buying and selling indications at the Stock Exchange in Tokyo on Friday as share prices edged up 12.55 points to a record 32,838.68 yen close to end the week with a massive 1,270.16 point or 4.02 per cent gain. (Reuters wirephoto)

## US seeks accord on new debt plan

Japan, France voice support

WASHINGTON, March 31, (Reuters): The US administration will seek broad support for its new proposals to slash Third World debt at key monetary meetings starting in Washington today, a senior US treasury official said.

The official, who declined to be identified, told reporters the \$1.3-trillion international debt problems would dominate the semi-annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

"The principal objectives of the spring meetings will be to achieve a consensus on the basic concepts and direction of the strengthened international debt strategy," he said.

The US debt plan, unveiled on March 10 by Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, aims to reduce the debt burden on developing nations such as Brazil and Mexico. Brady wants his remedy to be backed by funds from the IMF and World Bank.

The treasury official also said finance ministers and central bank chiefs from leading industrial democracies would discuss policies aimed at sustaining non-inflationary economic growth, cutting trade imbalances and keeping exchange rates stable at talks expected to take place on Sunday.

So far the United States has

received clear backing for its debt plan only from Japan and France.

West German Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg said in Bonn today it was possible the Washington meetings would produce some basic agreement on the debt question, but other German officials have said Bonn could oppose any proposals that place a heavy burden on taxpayers.

Italian Treasury Minister Giuliano Amato has voiced objections, saying the plan favours larger banks at the expense of smaller creditors, and the World Bank worries that official lenders will have to bear the brunt of producing new funds for Third World debtors.

Debtors' nations were, formulating their own response to the US proposals today at a meeting in Washington of officials from the Group of 24 developing nations.

While Third World countries were likely to welcome any new initiative to breathe life into the debt debate, some leaders have already said Brady's proposals do not go far enough.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, whose country has been wracked by violent protests against price increases, said this week the 20 per cent debt reduction envisaged in the Brady plan

"would accomplish absolutely nothing."

The US treasury official conceded that extremely technical discussions would be needed before the Brady plan could be implemented.

But he added that if a broad consensus were reached on the proposals in Washington, some individual countries could start benefiting from the initiative in a relatively short time.

The treasury official declined to comment on the level at which leading industrial democracies would like to see the dollar, but the US Federal Reserve made clear on Thursday it did not want to see the dollar rise above 1.90 marks.

The Fed defended this rate repeatedly on Thursday and backed up that intervention by selling dollars against the yen for the first time in over three years. Stoltenberg said before leaving for Washington that any further rise of the dollar would be undesirable and added that the policy of dollar stability pursued by the Group of Seven leading industrial democracies had been successful so far.

Officials from the G-7 — the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada — were also expected to discuss inflationary threats facing industrial nations.

## Trade deficit down

RABAT, March 31, (Reuters): Morocco's trade deficit was slashed by 20 per cent in 1988 thanks to the best harvest on record and a major leap in sales of phosphates and phosphoric acid, provisional government figures show.

The increase in exports saw growth in gross domestic product (GDP) rise 10 per cent compared to less than one per cent the previous year.

The figures were given to an economic conference in Rabat this week, the semi-official economic weekly La Vie Economique reported.

Ali Amor, director of the country's office Des Changes, told delegates the overall trade deficit had fallen to 9.6 billion dirhams (\$1.2 billion) compared to 11.9 billion (1.4 billion) in 1987.

He said the good economic news was largely attributable to an increase in exports of 25.6 per cent while imports grew by only 10.6 per cent.

An increase of almost 50 per cent in sales of phosphates and its derivatives was the main factor behind improved export performance which totalled 29.4 billion dirhams (\$3.5 billion) compared to 23.4 billion (2.8 billion) in 1987.

The good economic news comes as the government faces a surge in wage demands after five years of an austerity programme backed by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

## Dollar tests 1.9 marks, then retreats

Gold gains

LONDON, March 31, (Reuters): The dollar briefly touched a seven-month high of 1.90 marks in Europe today but retreated by the close in nervous trading, dealers said.

It ended in London unchanged from Thursday's finish of 1.8925 marks and at 132.65 yen against 132.70 on Thursday.

Speculative buying prior to a weekend meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised countries took the US currency to its peak, dealers said.

Finance ministers and central bankers from the United States, Japan, Britain, West Germany,

France, Italy and Canada are expected to discuss rising inflation, interest rates and currency stability.

Dealers said the market was edgy but they did not expect any major initiatives on currency levels to emerge from the meeting, which is taking place in the context of the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

"Even if they decide something about where the dollar should be, they are not going to tell us about it," said one dealer. US stocks held their gains with the Dow Jones industrial average

up six points at 2,288 by New York's mid-morning.

Oil prices were firmer in thin London business, traders said. North Sea Brent blend, the most widely traded crude, was quoted around \$19.60 a barrel for May loading against \$19.20 at Thursday's close.

Gold ended at \$383.75 an ounce in London, one dollar up on Thursday's close.

Tokyo stock prices edged up today to their third straight record close after falling earlier while the US dollar rose against major currencies on year-end commercial demand.

## South Korea flayed

### Major clash breaks out near shipyard

SEOUL, South Korea, March 31, (AP): Thousands of workers and radical students armed with rocks and firebombs battled riot police today in seven cities in protests against a police action that ended a prolonged strike at South Korea's largest shipyard.

The Hyundai Heavy Industries in Ulsan, 250 kilometres (150 miles) southeast of Seoul, reopened today and about 4,000 police were deployed in and around the sprawling shipyard to prevent further violence.

Hyundai officials said 70 per cent of its 22,000-person workforce was back on the job.

About 14,000 riot police, assisted by helicopters spewing tear

gas, stormed the shipyard before dawn yesterday, arresting 697 strikers and ending the 109-day strike in which some 400 people had been injured since Dec 12.

The police intervention touched off a wave of protests by radical students and sympathisers who accused the government of suppressing the labour movement and protecting conglomerates at the cost of workers.

A major clash broke out today near the shipyard and in the streets of downtown Ulsan where 3,000 workers and radical students armed with rocks and firebombs battled police firing tear-gas.

News reports and witnesses said the protesters set fire to five cars and attacked three police substations in the centre of Ulsan.

About 1,000 protesters also demonstrated at Hyundai Heavy Machinery Co., a Hyundai subsidiary in Ulsan. They tossed rocks and firebombs into the company compound, setting fire to two buses and destroying 30 cars, according to the South Korean news agency Yonhap.

In Seoul, about 4,000 radical students accusing Roh of suppressing the Korean labour movement clashed with riot police at five schools.

## Airbus loosens US grip on markets

PARIS, March 31, (Reuters): Western European efforts to break US dominance in the world market for passenger aircraft moved a stage forward this week with orders flowing in for almost 50 Airbus airliners.

"Airbus could overtake McDonnell Douglas this year as the world's second biggest plane maker behind Boeing," said Jeffrey Lenorovitz, European editor of the magazine Aviation weekly.

Seattle-based Boeing Co has some 50 per cent of the market

with Airbus and McDonnell Douglas Corp each holding around 10 per cent.

A decision on Tuesday by Trans World Airlines Inc to order up to 40 long-haul Airbus A330 jets was the third major order for the European consortium from US Airlines this year.

Northwest Airlines has said it would buy 10 A330s and Braniff Airways is in for up to 100 A320s.

TWA's announcement was followed by orders from a French Airline for two more air-

craft and on Thursday for seven wide-bodied A300 jets from Japan Air Services.

"It's a pretty good start to 1989. It seems the A330 is going to be the hot seller of 1989," said Paul Bond, a spokesman for Airbus, which is made up of aerospace companies in France, West Germany, Britain and Spain.

Airbus assembles a family of five jets at its two production lines in Toulouse, southwestern France, ranging from the short-haul, wide-bodied A300 to the long-haul A340.

## Airline chief testifies in scandal

ATHENS, Greece, March 31, (AP): Alexander Akrivakis, director of Olympic Airways, was questioned today in connection with the investigation of a \$200-million bank scandal that has rocked the ruling Socialist Party.

Akrivakis, a close friend of Premier Andreas Papandreu who was appointed as head of Greece's national carrier after the Socialists took office, testified before a magistrate investigating why state-run organisations deposited millions of dollars at the Bank of Crete.

Olympic Airways deposited almost 2 billion drachmas (\$12.3 million) as well as other state-run corporations, at lower than normal interest rates, with the troubled Bank of Crete when it was encountering cash flow problems.

Following four hours of questioning, Akrivakis

was ordered back on Monday.

Four other directors of state-run organisations have been jailed and charged with breach of faith after they testified.

The scandal has been front paged in every national daily since last October.

George Koskotas, chairman of the Bank of Crete, fled the country on Nov 6 and ended up in the United States where he is awaiting the outcome of a Greek petition for his extradition, in a Salem, Massachusetts prison.

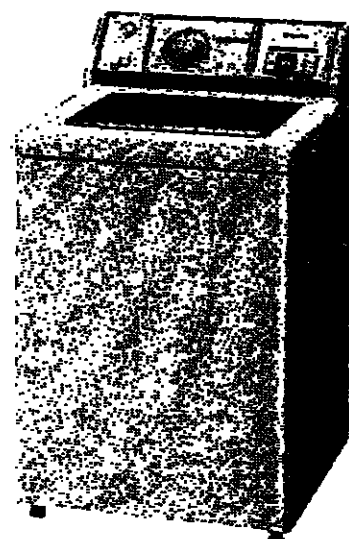
Koskotas alleges that most of the missing money was paid to ranking members of the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) including Papandreu and former top minister Agamemnon Koutsogiorgas.

## A TEDDY BEAR'S TALE

(CHAPTER 3)

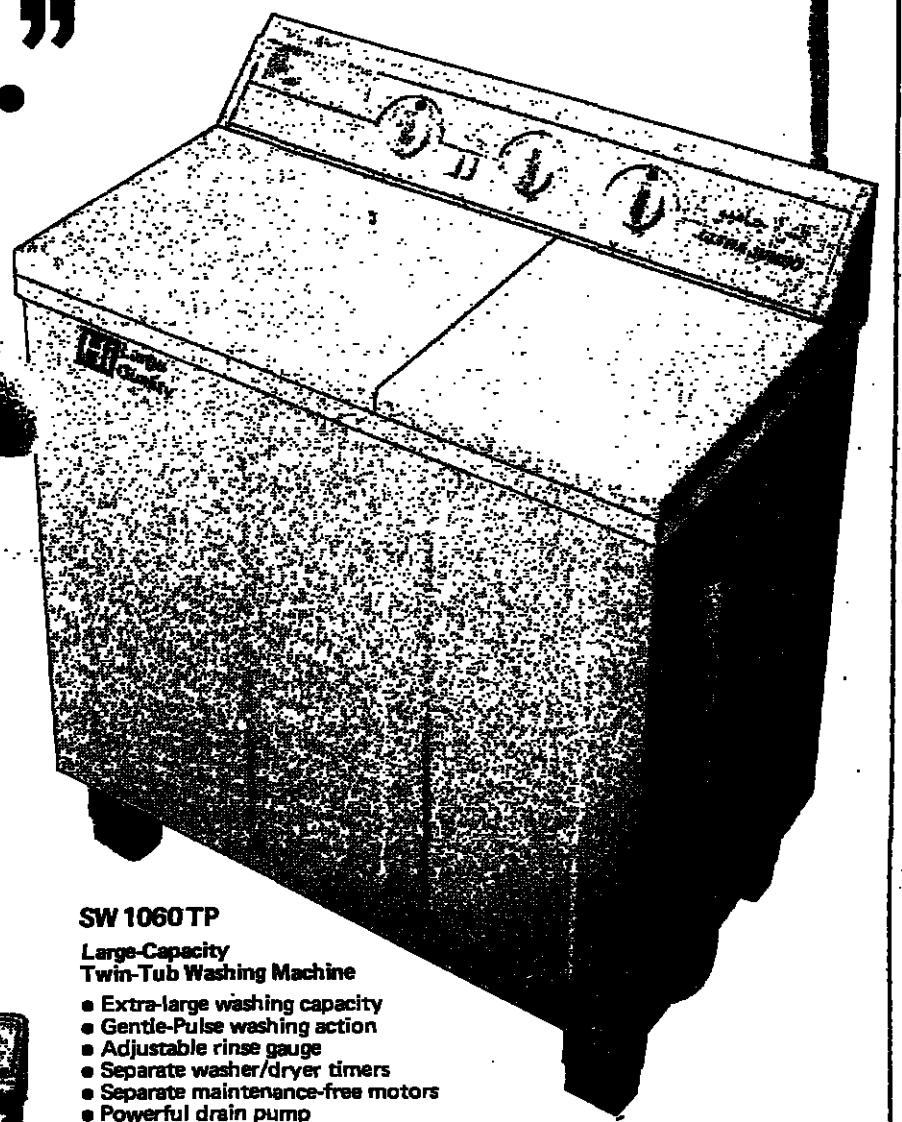
"If it's gentle on me, It must be gentle on your clothes."

That's all the teddy bear can say. It's no wonder, because the washing machine is from Sanyo.



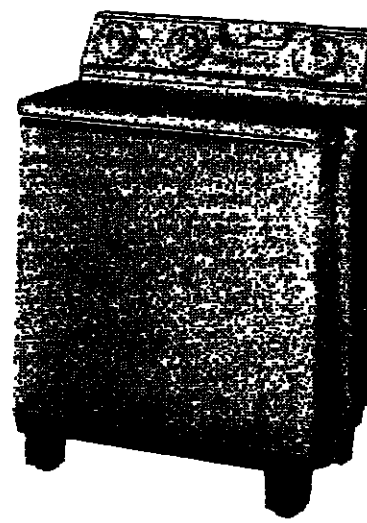
ASW L500T

Large-Capacity Automatic Washer  
Extra-efficiency with large pulsator and gentle-pulse washing action.  
• Automatic reverse • 4 wash programs  
• 5-stage water level control • Rinse mode selector • Liquid balancer.



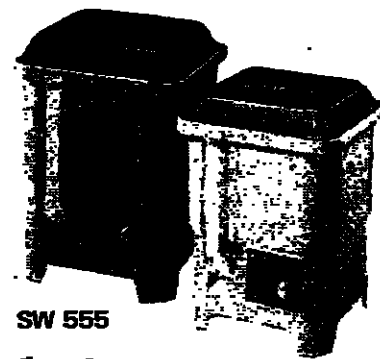
SW 1060 TP

Large-Capacity Twin-Tub Washing Machine  
• Extra-large washing capacity  
• Gentle-Pulse washing action  
• Adjustable rinse gauge  
• Separate washer/dryer timers  
• Separate maintenance-free motors  
• Powerful drain pump



SW 152T

32-Liter Small But Efficient Twin-Tub Washer  
Auto Reverse, Gentle, and Normal Washing • Water supply from 3 locations  
• Convenient water-saving rinse gauge  
• Operates in 50Hz and 60Hz areas.



SW 555

Extra-Compact Washer  
Simplified operation with on/off switch • Drain hose supplied  
• 4-pole condenser motor • Efficient Whirlpool washing.

SANYO International Warranty

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هكذا نحن الآن



LONDON (Alpha Stocks)			LONDON (Beta Stocks)		
NAME	LAST	INT	NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
ABSEY LFE	320.0	228/0	2ND ALLCE	854/0	854/0
ADT LTD	152.0	269/0	600 GROUP	127/0	127/0
ALD LYONS	447.0	323/0	A.AMER TS	420/0	420/0
AMSTRAD	142/0	334/0	A.B.ELECT	442/0	440/0
ARGYLL GP	181/0	329/0	A.S.W.HLD	256/0	256/0
ASDA GP	146.0	309/0	AAB KENT	102/0	102/0
BAA	358.0	163.0	AAR HLD	382/0	382/0
BAT	383.0	217/0	AARSONSON	119/0	119/0
BAT INDS	375/0	203/0	ADDISON	37.5	38.0
BAYCLAYS	443/0	193.0	ADVEST	176/0	175/0
BASS	417/0	568.0	ALEXON	389/0	388/0
BEECHAMS	593/0	153/0	ALLD COLL	133/0	133/0
BERTSFORD	153.0	672.0	ALLD IR B	293/0	294/0
BICC PLC	514/0	427.0	ALLD LON	148/0	148/0
BLUE ARRY	89/0	705/0	ALL PART	75/0	76/0
BLUE CIRC	536/0	247/0	ALLIANCE	966/0	967/0
SOC GP	505.0	253/0	AMER DAY	53/4	53/4
BOOTS CO	272/0	393/0	AMER TST	425/0	425/0
BPB INDS	255/0	343/0	AMERIAN	390/0	390/0
BR COMH	202/0	400/0	ANGLIA TV	275/0	276/0
BR AIRWAY	202/0	898/0	ANSACHER	76/0	76/0
BR AEROSD	569/0	067/0	APPLEYARD	456/0	455/0
BR GAS RG	180/0	517.0	APV PLC	133/0	133/0
BR LND	371.0	405/0	ASHLEY LA	110/0	110/0
B.P.	287/0	662/0	AUS REE A	253/0	253/0
B.P. PP	181/0	690/0	AUTO REED	390/0	393/0
BR STEEL	83/4	525/0	AUTO SECS	287/0	287/0
BR TELCOM	275.5	182/0	AVESCO	99/4	99/4
BURMAN OL	542/0	102/0	AVIS EUR	376/0	376/0
BURTON	214/0	292.0	AVON RUBB	630/0	630/0
CABLESWIR	487/0	292.0	BAILL JAP	912/0	930/0
CADBURYS	346/0	223.0	BAILL SHI	527/0	530/0
CALOR GRP	385/0	306.0	BAIRD (W)	242/0	243/0
CLINTON	89/0	120.0	BAIRD IRE	291/0	290/0
CLINTON R T	892/0	242/0	BANKER IT	87/4	87/0
COOKSONS	313/0	386/0	BARDON GP	166/0	166/0
COURTAULD	297/0	468.0	BARRY DEV	202/0	200/0
DALGETY	352/0	325/0	BAYNES C	30/0	30/0
DIXONS	162/0	310.0	BEA GROUP	187/0	187/0
ENG CHINA	529/0	183.0	BBA BRND	10/4	10/4
ENTER OIL	532.0	938.0	BELLVIE J	164/0	163/0
FTI BARCK	171.0	307.0	BELTAN	48/0	48/0
FERRANTI	107/0	237/0	BENKOW	244/0	243/0
FISONS	286/0	632/4	BENKOW	62/0	63/0
GATEWAY	163.0	116/0	BERKELEY	253/0	252/0
GEN ACCID	967/0	386.0	BH GROUP	124/4	126/0
GEN ELEC	232.0	166.5	BLK L2	101/0	100/0
GLAND	323/0	325/0	BLK L2	101/0	100/0
GRANADA	386.0	325/0	BLK L2	101/0	100/0
GLOBE	166.5	325/0	BLK L2	101/0	100/0
GLYNED	325/0	325/0	BLK L2	101/0	100/0
GUARD RYL	215/0	325/0	BLK L2	101/0	100/0
GUINNESS	446.0	325/0	BLK L2	101/0	100/0
HARRISON A	777/0	325/0	BLK L2	101/0	100/0
HANSON	186.5	325/0	BLK L2	101/0	100/0
HARRISON C	752/0	325/0	BLK L2	101/0	100/0
HAKER SID	654/0	325/0	BLK L2	101/0	100/0
HILLSDOWN	74.00	325/0	BLK L2	101/0	100/0

World Indices				
INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-OR	PREV-YR
FT 300 ORD	1707.9	1686.7	1705.5	1455.3
FT 500 SHR	1182.7	1169.5	1180.9	1008.8
FT ALL SHR	76.15	65.26	1075.05	926.59
FT GOV SEC	87.30	87.36	87.78	87.03
FT GOLD MK	190.2	190.6	191.5	161.9
FT MINES F	653.25	648.70	645.91	565.31
FT OIL	1978.9	1953.6	1997.8	1725.4
FT MLD DLR	141.17	141.17	138.85	139.21
FT MLD STG	123.81	123.81	123.18	115.30
FT MLD LDC	129.77	129.77	129.06	123.40

### London Stock Market Report

U.K. STOCKS AT HIGHS AS WALL STREET HOLDS GAINS

LONDON, MARCH 31, REUTER - SHARE PRICES WERE AT THE DAY'S HIGHS IN MODERATELY ACTIVE LATE AFTERNOON BUSINESS, SUPPORTED BY A FIRMER TONE ON WALL STREET.

ONE TRADER SAID, "THIS ACTIVITY MAY BE MARKET MAKER-LED, IT'S THE END OF A QUARTER AND THE INSTITUTIONS ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS."

TRADERS SAID THAT DECLINES YESTERDAY MAY HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATED. SOME BUYING FOR THE NEW ACCOUNT, WHICH BEGINS ON MONDAY, HELPED THE MARKET MAINTAIN ITS FIRMER TONE THIS AFTERNOON.

DEALERS SAID THAT WITH MARKET OPINION SETTLED ON THE IDEA THAT BRITISH BASE RATES WILL STAY AT 13 PCT, UNLESS OF A SUDDEN CHANGE IN THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE, WALL STREET COULD PROVIDE SOME DIRECTION TO THE LONDON MARKET.

DEALERS SAID THAT A MEETING OF THE GROUP OF SEVEN MAJOR INDUSTRIALISED NATIONS THIS WEEKEND MAY GIVE SOME INDICATIONS AS TO PROSPECTS FOR CURRENCY MARKETS AND INTEREST RATES.

REUTERS WAS 20P HIGHER AT 692 AFTER INITIAL WEAKNESS ON NEWS IT IS TO CONVERT ITS VOTING "A" SHARES INTO LISTED "B" SHARES. THE COMPANY SAID THE CONVERSION SHOULD IMPROVE THE MARKETABILITY OF ITS SHARES.

### Precious Metals

LONDON, MARCH 31, REUTER - GOLD BULLION EDGED UP TO THE HIGHS OF A NARROW RANGE DURING ROUTINE LATE TRADING, SUPPORTED BY GAINS IN NEW YORK AND FIRM CRUDE OIL PRICES, DEALERS SAID.

GOLD CLOSED AT 383.50/384.00 DLRs AN OUNCE, UP FROM AN OPENING 380.40/380.90 AND LAST NIGHT'S CLOSE OF 382.50/383.00 DLRs.

ACTIVITY WAS LARGELY ROUTINE TODAY, WITH MARKET STABILITY REFLECTING TECHNICAL CONSOLIDATION ABOVE THE 380 DLRs LEVEL. EARLIER BUYING IN THE FAR EAST WAS ALSO SUPPORTIVE. BUT THERE WAS LITTLE FRESH INTEREST SEEN THROUGHOUT THE PRECIOUS METALS SECTOR AHEAD OF SUNDAY'S G-7 MEETING, THEY SAID.

### London Money Market

LONDON, MARCH 31, REUTER - MONEY MARKET RATES WERE EDGED HIGHER BY MONTH-END PRESSURES, DEALERS SAID.

THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INCLUDING JAPAN IS CREATING A SLIGHTLY HIGHER DEMAND FOR CASH THAN IS NORMAL, THEY NOTED. THE EFFECT IS THAT PERIOD RATES HAVE PICKED UP AROUND 1/16 POINT, THEY ADDED.

TODAY'S ABSENCE OF MAJOR U.K. ECONOMIC FIGURES AND CAUTION AHEAD OF THIS WEEKEND'S GROUP OF SEVEN MEETING OF INDUSTRIAL NATIONS (G-7) IN WASHINGTON HAS KEPT RATES IN A FAIRLY NARROW TRADING RANGE, TRADERS SAID.

### Foreign Exchange

DLR	STG	DMK	FFR	DPG
DLR	1.6865/75	1.8940/45	6.3825/55	29.52/68
STG	1.6880/90	3.1940/75	10.7935/8050	NOON
DMK	1.8887/8967	3.189/203	337.53/38.17	FIX
FFR	6.3885/4005	10.7965/8145	25.95/97	NOON
DPG	1.6595/6605	2.8021/8054	87.67/76	FIX
HFL	2.1350	3.6070	112.755	33.38
EDU	1.10033	0.651083	2.08260	7.03662
SCR	1.29407	0.766720	2.44307	8025228
YEN	132.55/65	223.75/224.06		NOON
SDR RATE	30/03/1989	OTHERS	31/03/1989	

BR ARRES	79/0	79/4	HELENE PL	34/0	34/0	ROTASCHLD	198/0	198/0
BR DREIGHT	168/0	168/0	HELICAL B	310/0	310/0	ROTORK	152/0	152/0
BR VITA	265/0	263/0	HEMPHORTH	288/0	283/0	RUGBY GRP	184/0	184/0
BRENT CHE	153/0	155/0	HESTAIR	288/0	288/0	RUTLAND T	45/0	45/0
BRENT KCR	352/0	351/0	HEYWOOD W	303/0	303/0	RYAN INTL	139/0	140/0
BRIDON	197/0	198/0	HICKSON IN	249/0	249/0	SAGA CORP	303/0	303/0
BRITAIN-NE	210/0	210/0	HIGGS MIL	380/0	380/0	SALE TLMY	223/0	222/0
BRITANNIC	400/0	400/0	HIGSON CTY	52/0	52/0	SALVESSEN	144/0	144/0
BRIXTON E	392/0	391/0	HNRBD ZOP	231/0	231/0	SAVILLE G	51/0	52/0
BRN & JAC	40/0	40/4	HNTSR SPHR	162/0	163/0	SAVOY "A"	86/0	85/0
BROWN SHI	349/0	348/0	HOLMES PR	109/0	108/0	SCHR.-GLOB	272/0	272/0
BRYANT GP	126/0	126/0	HOMDEN GP	161/0	161/0	SCOT HERRI	190/0	190/0
BSG INTL	81/4	82/0	HOPKINSON	90/0	91/0	SCOT I.T.	143/0	145/0
BUDGENS	118/0	118/0	HTV GROUP	110/0	110/0	SCOT MET	164/0	164/0
BULLGUGH	538/0	538/0	ICE. FZ.-PD	342/0	341/0	SCOT MTR	120/0	119/0
BULMER BH	189/0	190/0	JARY M.DV	440/0	440/0	SCOT.AM.J	102/4	102/0
CAIDRO GRP	462/0	460/0	INDPDD PL	14/0	14/0	SCT NAT C	46/0	46/0
CALENDRIA	384/0	382/0	INNOV PLC	34/0	34/0	SCT NAT I	96/0	96/0
CAMB ELEC	245/0	246/0	INT.-BU.CN	130/0	130/0	SCT NAT W	13/0	13/0
CAMFORD E	239/0	240/0	INT.-CITY	79/0	78.3	SELCTV 1P	18/4	19/0
CANNING W	267/0	267/0	JHNSMFR	56/0	57/0	SEMA GRP	288/0	288/0
CANON ST	290/0	291/0	JOS HLGES	149/0	148/0	SHARWICKO	540/0	540/0
CARLTON R	67/0	67/0	KALAMANDR	182/0	181/0	SHERATON S	83/0	83/0
CARLOW	383/0	384/0	KALONG GRP	39/0	39/0	SHIRE INC	228/0	228/0
CATTLE HD	75/0	75/0	KELT ENGY	57/0	57/0	SHR ENG	370/0	370/0
CAULD	12/4	12/4	KETSON	42/0	43/0	SHRINFR	71/0	72/0
CENTIL VTL	768/0	768/0	KLURY CHR	143/2	143/4	SMITH D	325/0	325/0
CHAM PHRR	219/0	220/0	KLURT O'S	144/4	144/0	SOUND DIF	22/0	22/0
CHARTERHA	22/0	22/0	KLURT SHL	178/0	178/0	SPRING RAM	239/0	241/0
CHAS CHUR	115/0	113/0	KLVK SAVE	412/0	413/0	SPRX-SARC	216/0	216/0
CHLORIDE	54/0	54/0	KVTK-FIT	103/0	104/0	ST.ANDREW	240/0	240/0
CHRISTIES	832/0	832/0	LAING 'A'	364/0	363/0	ST.MOOWEN	40/0	40/0
CI GROUP	51/0	51/0	LAING ORD	364/0	363/0	STAKIS	109/0	109/0
CLAYFIRM	295/0	294/0	LAING PRP	497/0	498/0	STEETLEY	407/0	407/0
CLINTAL ACC	67/0	67/0	LAIRO GRP	248/0	248/0	STHED PR	212/0	211/0
CLINT OIL	177/0	176/0	LAURINE W	151/0	151/0	STODDARD	51/0	50/0
COATES BR	136/0	138/0	LAUREN HET	182/0	181/0	STORRAGE	21/0	21/0
COLLOROLL	156/0	156/0	LDM ATC	346/0	306/0	STRICK	228/0	228/0
COMPAS GR	367/0	368/0	LDM INTL	123/0	123/0	T.E.L.P. BU	202/0	203/0
CONNELLS	253/0	255/0	LDM UTD	224/0	224/0	TELNETRX	50/0	51/0
COOPER F	178/0	177/0	LDMEDIN	141/0	142/0	TEMPLE BA	216/0	240/0
COSTAIN	341/0	340/0	LEP GROUP	178/0	178/0	THAMES TV	468/0	470/0
COURTS FR	189/0	190/0	LFX SERVC	376/0	356/0	THORNTONS	141/0	141/0
COMIE (T)	131/0	130/0	LIFE SCIE	71/0	71/0	THROGHTN	468/0	468/0
CRH	165/0	166/0	LILLEY FJ	65/4	65/4	TIE CORP	462/0	463/0
CRODA INT	204/0	204/0	LLOYD TH	210/0	210/0	TIE RACK	86/0	87/0
CRYSTALAT	157/0	157/0	LOCAL LON	544/0	545/0	TIME PROO	232/0	232/0
CTRY PROP	300/0	300/0	LOGICA	387/0	387/0	TIPROCK	521/0	522/0
DARES EST	38/2	38/2	LOVELL HD	273/0	273/0	TOMKINS F	237/0	236/0
DAVIS GED	102/0	102/0	LON (AM)	288/0	290/0	TOOTAL	133/4	133/0
DAVY CORP	226/0	226/0	LOMBOMONN	238/0	238/0	TOZER K&H	111/0	111/0
DAVSON GP	189/0	189/0	N&G GROUP	332/0	332/0	TR CITY	89/0	89/0
DELTA GRP	323/0	323/0	N.C.PACIF	212/0	214/0	TR PACIFIC	73/0	74/0
DELMIST	344/0	345/0	MACARTHUR	254/0	254/0	TR PROPTY	57/4	57/0
DIPLOMA	260/0	261/0	MACFARLANE	220/0	220/0	TR TRSTEE	143/4	144/0
DOBSON PK	99/4	99/0	MAI	88/0	88/0	TRINCO	47/0	47/0
DOUDINGEN	75/0	75/0	MAJEDIA	281/0	281/0	TRIPLEK	158/0	158/0
DOVY GRP	270/0	271/0	MARBERS	238/0	238/0	TRITON ER	150/0	150/0
DRAYTON C	527/0	526/0	MARLB	182/0	182/0	TRISTOR DV	245/0	245/0
DRG	479/0	480/0	MATTHEWS	77/0	78/0	TV SV HLD	79/0	81/0
DUNDEHSTR	74/0	75/0	MAUNDERS	116/0	116/0	TVS ENTER	334/0	335/0
DUNKEID	324/0	324/0	MCKECHNIE	333/0	333/0	TYNDALL	99/0	99/0
DUNHILL	247/0	248/0	MENEC	264/0	265/0	U-BORLAND	85/0	84/0
EAGLE TST	14/6	14/4	MERCH. TST	181/6	182/0	U-BRD ST	20/4	20/0
EDIN I.T	184/4	185/0	MERLIN IN	144/0	143/0	U-BROADAL	204/0	205/0
EDMOND HD	44/0	44/0	METAL CLS	209/0	208/0	U-CITYVSN	147/0	147/0
ELECTRO	268/4	269/0	METALRAC	94/0	95/0	U-DEANBGO	177/0	178/0
ELECTRON	211/0	211/0	MEYER INT	455/0	454/0	U-DEWEY W	125/0	125/0
ENAP	252/0	251/0	NIDSUMER	235/0	235/0	U-DURHAM	57/0	58/0
EMPIRE ST	200/0	201/0	HL HDGSS	131/0	131/0	U-EXPLAIR	43/0	43/0
ERA GROUP	59/0	60/0	HMT CLST	175/0	173/0	U-FERRARI	13/0	13/0
EURO.GOME	264/0	265/0	HOLINS OR	256/0	256/0	U-FLOYD E	19/0	19/0
EUROTHERM	471/0	470/0	HOMES IT	253/0	253/0	U-FRD SEL	109/0	109/0
EUTRNL UT	813/0	813/0	MORGAN CR	274/0	275/0	U-H'ND PT	264/0	263/0
EUTRNL TV	71/0	70/4	NORLAND	72/0	72/0	U-HUGH.H	160/0	159/0
EVODE GRP	194/0	192/0	MOUNTLEIG	168/0	168/0	U-HUGHES	45/0	46/0
EX.CO.LD	133/0	135/0	MOWLEH J	450/0	448/0	U-ISRAEL	22/4	22/0
EXPACMENT	188/0	189/0	MRRY INCM	207/4	207/4	U-KLUNICK	57/0	57/0
F&C ENTER	31/4	31/4	MRRY INTL	209/4	209/4	U-LDN FRF	140/0	140/0
F&C ENRTE	260/0	259/0	NS INTL.-	143/0	143/0	U-MICROV	42/0	42/0
F&C PACIF	164/0	165/0	N.BRIT CA	413/0	413/0	U-MOLINAR	28/0	28/0
F&C SALLR	77/4	77/0	N.ENG.IND	135/0	135/0	U-MONRIT	23/6	23/0
FARNELL E	168/0	168/0	N.TELCH	131/0	131/0	U-MORRYDN	383/0	385/0
FED.HOUSH	243/0	243/0	NEWARTHIL	950/0	950/0	U-N.SEAAG	46/0	46/0
FENNER JH	186/4	187/0	NORCORS	333/0	331/0	U-PAVION	3/6	3/0
FERGUSON	268/0	268/0	NORFOLK C	37/4	37/4	U-RNDSHT	263/0	263/0
FINE ARTS	220/0	222/0	NORMANS	66/0	67/0	U-SAC INT	118/0	120/0
FINKAL GP	90/0	90/0	NORTHAMR	278/0	278/0	U-STH BPO	472/0	473/0
FINKAL J	112/0	112/0	NSM PLC	90/0	89/0	U-STRNOPE	253/0	253/0
FITCH LOV	217/0	217/0	NDRNAPCO	184/0	184/0	U-T.V.-AN	211/0	212/0
FLBK GROUP	319/0	320/0	O'SEAS IT	203/0	203/0	UNION DIS	490/0	493/0
FLING AMER	129/4	129/0	OCEAN TPT	305/0	307/0	UNITEC	309/0	309/0
FLING INC	231/4	232/0	OCEONICS	22/0	23/0	UTD.BIC W	160/0	160/0
FLING INIV	165/4	166/0	OSSORY EST	22/4	22/4	UTD.179	70/0	71/0
FLING JAPH	234/0	238/0	OWNERS AB	84/0	84/0	UTD.SCIEM	179/0	179/0
FLING MERC	207/0	207/0	P & O WTS	103/0	103/0	VALUERINC	32/0	32/0
FLING TECH	176/0	177/0	P & P PLC	224/0	224/0	VAUD SPR	60/0	60/0
FOR &COL	131/2	131/0	PACIFIC A	195/4	197/0	VERSON	29/0	29/0
FRUDLY HO	290/0	290/0	PAGE (CN)	49/0	49/0	VH INSTNT	283/0	283/0
FRGMOORE	506/0	506/0	PENGTON	105/0	104/0	VICKERS	194/0	194/0
GALLIFORD	95/0	94/0	PERRANOW	76/0	76/0	VPI GROUP	186/0	186/0
GARDINER	51/0	49/0	PERRY GRP	230/0	230/0	WADDINGTON	207/0	208/0
GEEST	277/0	276/0	PERSIMMON	185/0	185/0	WAGON HDG	369/0	369/0
GEI INTL	127/0	127/0	PHOENIX	90/0	90/0	WARD HDS	148/0	145/0
GERRDSNAT	279/0	278/0	PICKVICK	220/0	220/0	WARDLE ST	418/0	415/0
GOODE DUR	139/0	139/0	POWELL DU	375/0	375/0	WATERFO O	75/0	75/0
GPG	42/0	42/0	PRESTWICH	116/0	116/0	WATERFO U	75/0	75/0
GRAPHN HD	334/0	336/0	PRIEST (B)	23/6	23/4	WATES CTY	192/0	192/0
GREEN KNG	55/4/0	55/4/0	PRIEST NA	430/0	430/0	WATES B&B	366/0	363/0
GREENWLL	302/0	302/0	PROP&SECUT	203/0	202/0	WCRS GRP	241/0	241/0
GREYCOAT	492/0	492/0	PROUDFOOT	278/0	278/0	WEIR GRP	300/0	300/0
GRMP TV A	65/0	66/0	PRYV FINL	318/0	319/0	WEMBLEY	125/0	125/0
GT PRTLND	392/0	392/0	RAINE IND	104/0	104/0	WESTBURY	276/0	276/0
QUINN SA	124/0	124/0	RANSONES	454/0	453/0	WESTLAND	151/0	151/0
QUS ORD	563/0	600/0	RATNERS	201/0	201/0	WHITNEY	114/0	111/0
GVTI ORIE	367/0	370/0	RECHAM EV	453/0	452/0	WHITECROF	310/0	311/0
GUYL STRA	64/4	255/0	REFUGE GP	472/0	473/0	WILSON BON	271/0	271/0
HALMA	217/0	216/0	REGALION	138/0	138/0	WILSON CON	190/0	190/0
HAMBROS I	294/0	292/0	REGNTRCRST	80/0	80/0	WIDOLEY	296/0	297/0
HAMERSON	876/0	875/0	REWOLD	86/4	86/4	WILSON	296/0	297/0
HAYTHN LE	63/4	63/4	REWINTON	320/0	320/0	WPP GRP	690/0	690/0
HAZELWOOD	251/0	251/0	ROCKFORD	98/0	98/0	Y&S MOTOR	628/0	627/0
HEATHCOTE	456/0	457/0	ROCKHAF	75/0	75/0	YORK CHEN	346/0	345/0







## BUSINESS

## Despite EEC tax threat

## Banking is booming in Luxembourg

LUXEMBOURG, March 31. (Reuters): Despite a threat from the European Economic Community to its cherished tax breaks, Luxembourg's banking centre is booming.

While other financial centres are still firing people following the October 1987 stock market crash, Luxembourg banks can't hire staff fast enough.

Banks and investment funds are queuing for permission to set up in the Grand Duchy. According to Pierre Jaans, head of the monetary authority, the Institut Monétaire Luxembourgeois, about 10 more foreign banks are to join around 140 already here.

## Proposals

"The financial centre is still growing. The number of banks is increasing, buildings are going up and we are hiring new people. Compared to other financial centres this is quite surprising," said Damien Wigny, a director of Kredietbank SA Luxembourg.

No one here welcomed proposals in February by the EEC's executive commission to crack down on tax evasion and stop Luxembourg acting as a haven in the centre of the community's barrier-free internal market after 1992.

But government leaders are now confident that they can block the proposals, or at least extract the sting from them.

And many optimists say the financial sector in Luxembourg, which accounts directly or indirectly for up to 20 per cent of economic activity, is now mature enough in any case to survive on expertise and innovation rather than tax benefits.

"We realise the future of the financial centre cannot be based on special fiscal treatment. What we must do is give service in a more and more sophisticated environment," Wigny said.

The EEC's smallest state, Luxembourg used to be heavily dependent on only one industry, steel. But in the past 30 years it has turned itself into a mini-Switzerland in banking.

The centre of the capital, in living memory just a village, is dominated by the high-rise, glass-fronted buildings which are now springing up across the city.

The magnets of strict banking secrecy and no withholding taxes for non-residents on the income from their investments have attracted armies of small investors to Luxembourg seeking to avoid taxes.

For years Belgium, which shares the same currency as Luxembourg, has had to tolerate thousands of the legendary "Belgian dentists" putting their funds in the Grand Duchy.

## Controls

This year, West German and Dutch investors have switched their money here to avoid new national tax measures.

And an EEC agreement to start lifting the remaining exchange controls in the community from the middle of next year

has made France especially worried that its citizens will sneak across the border to put their money in Luxembourg banks.

So, in a two-pronged attack, the European Commission has proposed greater co-operation between tax authorities and a withholding tax, or tax at source, of at least 15 per cent throughout the EEC on most forms of investment income.

But all tax matters must be approved unanimously and Luxembourg, with some support from Britain, has already said it will veto the proposed withholding tax.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Jacques Santer also moved in late March to ward off any EEC attack on banking secrecy by rushing through a decree confirming it is illegal for banks to give information on their clients to tax authorities.

"We believe that banking secrecy is just as important as for example the secrecy in the medical field," explained stock exchange chairman Edmond Israel.

## Iraq's oil refining capacity to get boost

BAGHDAD, March 31. (OPECNA): Iraq's oil refining capacity is expected to receive a considerable boost in June this year, when a major oil refinery goes into full operation.

The refinery, in the southern province of Basrah whose completion was delayed by the Gulf war, will have a capacity of 140,000 BPD of petroleum products and 100,000 tonnes of lubricating oil a year, apart from such derivatives as benzene, kerosene, naphtha and gas oil.

Repair works at the plant, which began immediately after the ceasefire in August 1988, were undertaken and completed entirely by Iraqi engineers and technicians.

## Products

The first processing unit of the Basrah refinery went into operation recently at an annual capacity of 3.50 million tonnes of light oil products and the second unit with a similar production capacity is expected to go into operation soon.

The two stages will meet domestic demand for light oil products and the surplus will be exported.

The refinery's first experimental operation started last month with the production of 1,000 BPD of light oil products.

Recent official figures show that Iraq's oil refining capacity for 1988, registered an increase of eight per cent over 1987 with a further boost in sight when the new refinery goes into operation.

## Six top US firms sign Soviet deal

MOSCOW, March 31. (Reuters): Six of the biggest names in US business signed an agreement in the Kremlin on Thursday under which they could invest up to \$15 billion in some 25 different US-Soviet joint ventures.

The accord breaks new ground by allowing for the first time oil firm Chevron Corp, food and tobacco giant RJR Nabisco and four others to take out profits earned in the Soviet Union, said James Giffen, president of the American trade consortium which groups the companies.

The other members on the US side are photographic firm Eastman Kodak Co, consumer and pharmaceutical products group Johnson and Johnson and grains and oilseeds processor Archer Daniel's Midland Co. The Soviet consortium groups 23 enterprises as well as several ministries.

## Dropped

Giffen said road had also been left for a seventh partner from the automobile industry to replace Ford Motor Co which last week dropped plans to make cars at a plant in the city of Gorky and left the consortium.

"The signing of the agreement is a precedent-setting breakthrough in non-strategic commercial relations between the two countries," said Giffen, who is also president of Merchant (investment) Bank Mercator Corp, which is one of the partners.

"We view it as the initial step on a long-term project," added the consortium's chairman Robert Carbone. "We are not going to be able to supply the whole of Russia with Oreos cookies and Ritz crackers out of our initial joint venture."

The agreement, signed by the American group and the Soviet foreign economic consortium, establishes a legal and business framework which will provide the basis for members of both consortia to form individual joint ventures.

## UAE bank sets up stocks index

Move to help investors to analyse market

DUBAI, March 31. (Reuters): Stocks investors in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are being given a better opportunity to monitor their investments.

The National Bank of Abu Dhabi is setting up the country's first publicly-quoted stocks index based on a basket of 22 shares, said NABAD senior manager Ziad Dabbas.

Dealing in UAE shares is still limited to nationals but the move is part of a general trend toward more efficient capital markets within the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC).

At this week's annual meeting of Arab Monetary Funds and central bankers in Amman, delegates agreed that stock and bond markets needed to be developed to attract more private Arab capital as government-generated development revenues have declined due to low oil prices.

The GCC nations — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — have agreed in principle to allow open investment in each other's newly-formed traded companies.

Only Kuwait now has a stock

market with a proper floor and quoted stock. But Bahrain and Oman are close to opening a stock trading floor while Saudi Arabia has blown hot and cold over the idea.

The UAE also has plans to open a full market and Javan Salim, Finance Ministry under-secretary and a NABAD board member, said the index was not an alternative to this long-term aim.

Dabbas said: "This index will help investors and traders to analyse their market."

The NABAD index was based on prices for stocks at January 1, 1988, and set at 1,000 points. Market capitalisation of the 10 companies and 12 banks involved was 16.5 billion dirhams (\$4.6 billion), Dabbas said in a telephone meeting.

At the beginning of this week, the index had risen to 1,203.97. Local brokers said this reflected growing investor confidence following the ceasefire in Iran-Iraq Gulf war last August and an increase in world crude prices this year.

The recently-established Niscorp also plans to publish an

index, which it has been supplying to private clients, a Niscorp manager Adnan Sarraf said.

Niscorp, which unlike most market making brokers in the UAE also acts as a stock trader, is one of the first of a new type of investment company in the region which provides investment services to individual clients.

## Participation

Arab economists have called for much wider public participation in local currency markets, which means offering investment vehicles, such as unit trusts, trust funds and managed money market funds, to small savers.

The UAE Stock Market reflects the situation in the region as a whole. The Abu Dhabi government, for example, holds a relatively low share in most companies through the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

"But most of the other shareholders are government officials or board members," said a Dubai-based broker.

Daily turnover of stocks is also low. "Most local investors are very liquid and... they buy... to hold," said Sarraf.

## World Bank casts doubt on Brady plan

WASHINGTON, March 31. (Reuters): A confidential report by the World Bank casts doubt on a key element of a plan unveiled recently by US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady for slashing the Third World's huge debt.

The report by World Bank president Barber Conable says official lenders — governments — will have to bear even more of the financing burden of Third World countries because banks are unlikely to provide the large loans countries will need for growth after they have reduced their existing debt.

Conable will submit his report, obtained by Reuters, to the development committee of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund next Tuesday. The world's finance ministers gather here today for the spring

meeting of the 151-nation IMF and World Bank.

Brady on March 10 proposed that the IMF and World Bank back debt reduction from existing resources that bankers said could amount to \$8 to \$12 billion.

Bankers and European allies have objected to aspects of the plan, leading to doubts that it can get off the ground with the urgency demanded by Latin American nations.

Brady voiced worries about taxpayers footing more of the bill. "If this trend were to continue, it could lead to a situation in which the debt problem would be transferred largely to the international institutions, weakening their financial position," he said in outlining his plan.

Conable's report says: "Even

with the increased benefits from debt reduction, the financing requirements of the severely indebted countries will be very substantial.

"Comparing the requirements with the likely availability of external capital in the future is very discouraging."

Conable said that between 1986 and 1988 commercial banks provided net finance to the governments of the 17 most highly indebted countries of just \$4.5 billion, well short of the target former US Treasury Secretary James Baker had deemed necessary for the resumption of growth and investment.

"The envisaged resumption of large flows of voluntary finance from commercial banks has not been forthcoming — nor is it likely to be on present evidence.

## Baker calls for case by case debt reduction

ATLANTA, Ga., March 31. (Reuters): US Secretary of State James Baker said on Thursday reduction of Latin American debt should be negotiated on a country-by-country basis, tying its benefits to the success of economic reform programmes.

"Clearly, Latin America must begin to grow again and the fruits of that growth must be more widely shared," Baker told a hemispheric conference chaired by former President Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford.

Baker said Latin American leaders bore the burden of restoring economic health, and urged them to create a climate to encourage investment and halt capital flight.

But he said Washington would support nations making economic reforms with its new policy of reducing the \$401-billion Latin American debt burden.

"In the weeks and months to come we must negotiate case by case details of that (debt) policy to ensure continued economic reform, a real reduction in existing debt burdens, and very importantly, new capital flows," Baker said.

He made the comments to leading officials from Latin America and the Caribbean at a two-day conference on hemispheric problems including the region's drug empires, Central American conflicts and the restoration of democracy in Panama.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez told reporters after Baker's speech that he welcomed the country-specific approach but believed guaranteed debt reduction for all nations should come first.

"If there is a global framework achieved that would include substantial reduction of debt, it would not then contradict the case by case studies after that," Perez told reporters.

## Backing group got funds from Recruit: Takeshita

TOKYO, March 31. (Reuters): Japan's Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita said today he knew in May 1987 that Recruit, the company at the centre of a shares-for-favours scandal, had made a large donation to his backing group.

Takeshita also said he realised that the amount was unusually large for one company to contribute.

"I was personally aware that Recruit had bought some 20 million yen-worth (\$154,000) of party tickets," Takeshita told a budget committee session in parliament.

Recruit Company, a job-placement and telecommunications firm, is suspected of handing out shares, gifts and contributions to more than 100 public figures in return for political and business favours.

Takeshita's secretary was among the recipients of the unlisted shares of a Recruit subsidiary, prices of which skyrocketed after

the company was listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Takeshita has denied that he received any shares himself.

In Japan, buying tickets for political banquets are a popular form of indirectly giving political contributions, but it is unusual for companies and institutions to buy more than a million yen (\$7,700) for the tickets, political analysts said.

Often politicians or supporting organisations host events to raise election funds.

So far, 13 businessmen and senior bureaucrats have been arrested in the Recruit scandal, which has already forced three cabinet ministers to resign.

Takeshita's support group, called the New Industry Economy Research Group, made a net profit of 1.12 billion yen (\$8.62 million) from the May 1987 banquet to which Recruit contributed. The group has since been disband-

ed.

During the event Takeshita, who was then secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), proclaimed himself a candidate for the LDP presidency.

The post carries with it Japan's premiership because of the party's majority in parliament.

Earlier this week, Takeshita's popularity rating dropped to a record low of nine per cent, compared with some 57 per cent in late 1987 when he took office.

## Resignation

Opposition parties have all called for Takeshita's resignation over the affair and have boycotted most parliamentary sessions, including deliberations on the national budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1.

Takeshita's government is scheduled to pass a 9.23 trillion-yen (\$71 billion) stop-gap budget to cover the first 50 days of fiscal year 1989-90 later today.

## Japan is No. 1 in bankers' credit rating survey

NEW YORK, March 31. (AP): The credit ratings of South Korea, Chile, Portugal, Iran and Tunisia have risen strongly in the past six months, a survey of international bankers shows.

But the bankers have sharply downgraded their ratings of Trinidad, Panama, Cuba, Norway, Gabon and Libya, according to the survey by Institutional Investor, a New York-based financial monthly magazine.

Every six months Institutional Investor asks about 100 international commercial banks to rate the creditworthiness of more than 100 countries on a scale of 0 to 100. Those with higher ratings generally find it easier to raise loans and they tend to pay lower interest rates.

## Top

At the top of the scale are Japan and Switzerland, with ratings of 95.2 and 94.3, followed by West Germany with 93.8. The United States, rated No. 1 for many years by bankers, now ranks fourth with 89.3 points.

At the bottom end of the scale are Nicaragua, which scored 4.7 out of 100, and North Korea, 3.6. In its March edition, published this week, the magazine commented that "relative political stability boosted South Korea, while rising tensions hurt Panama."

## Commercial Bank of Kuwait raises profits

KUWAIT, March 31. (Reuters): The Commercial Bank of Kuwait, the country's third largest, said on Thursday its 1988 net profit rose 13 per cent to \$2.2 million (\$18 million).

The figures, the third set reported by a Kuwaiti bank this year, confirmed a trend towards higher profits for the second successive year.

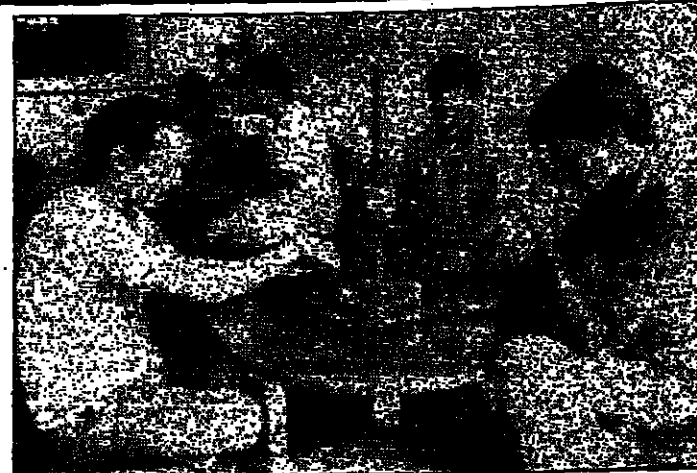
The bank said in a statement published in local papers that it lowered its proposed 1988 dividend to 1.97 million dinars (\$13.6 million) from 3.94 million (\$13.6 million) the year before, but would make a 2.46 million (\$8.5 million) bonus share issue.

## Soviets buy more US grain

WASHINGTON, March 31. (AP): The Soviet Union has bought 550,000 metric tons of US corn for delivery in the 1988-89 marketing year that began Sept. 1, the first purchase in almost three months, the Agriculture Department said today.

Although Moscow has been buying US wheat regularly under an export subsidy programme, it was the first significant corn purchase since Jan 4, officials said.

The corn, which is not subsidised under the export programme, is scheduled for delivery by Sept 30, the end of the sixth year of a long-term grain supply agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States.



A group of Indian labourers sit around a grinder polishing a rough diamond in Bombay. Indian diamond cutters make about \$100 per month compared to \$3,500 for their counterparts in New York, making India world's largest polished diamond exporter. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Indian diamond exports on rise

Competition is looming

BOMBAY, March 31. (Reuters): Concentrated in small workshops in Bombay's teeming business districts, some 600,000 people work as diamond cutters, polishers and traders — accounting for India's most lucrative export.

Most are illiterate, badly equipped and poorly paid by international standards. What they lack in technology they make up with dedication and traditional skills.

Typical is Abhay Tendle, 21, who squats on the dusty floor of a Bombay workshop carefully polishing a 12-carat diamond on a heavy, cast-iron wheel.

Every few minutes, he holds the gem, which is worth more than \$30,000 on the export market, up to a light and studies it minutely through a cheap magnifying glass. He has been polishing the same stone for four days.

Tendle and thousands of workers like him have made India the world's largest exporter of polished diamonds. He started as an apprentice two years ago, earning 200 rupees (\$13) a month.

"I now make more than 2,000 rupees (\$130) a month and look after a family," he said proudly.

Many of India's diamond workers have had their skills passed down to them through their families.

According to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, polished diamonds are India's top export. In the fiscal 1988-89 year ending on March 31, they may account for 20 per

cent of the country's total exports, up from 15.5 per cent a year earlier.

Diamond exports are expected to reach 40 billion rupees (\$2.6 billion) in 1988-89 against 24.4 billion rupees (\$1.9 billion) in the previous 12 months and 19 billion rupees (\$1.26 billion) in 1986-87.

Council chairman Jatin Mehta said increased demand for diamonds from the United States, Japan, Europe and Hong Kong have pushed sales.

"More and more middle income people are buying diamonds in these countries and diamonds are increasingly being used in ornaments there," Mehta said.

India is also the largest importer of rough diamonds.

In 1987-88, it imported 46.52 million carats of roughs, mostly small ones, more than 50 per cent of the total world supply of 90 million carats.

## Output

Five countries — Australia, Zaire, Botswana, the Soviet Union and South Africa — produce most of the world's roughs.

"India's advantage in diamond cutting, processing and polishing is the availability of traditional skills and cheap labour," Mehta said.

But competition is looming. "China, Taiwan and Thailand, where wages are comparable, are coming up as exporters and units there are more mechanised than in India," Mehta said.

## Egypt to boost oil prices

CAIRO, Egypt, March 31. (AP): Egypt decided yesterday to increase its oil-export prices 90 cents a barrel for all grades in the first half of April, an Oil Ministry spokesman said.

The increase takes effect simultaneously with a five per cent cut in Egypt's oil exports during the second quarter of the year. The cut, averaging about 24,000 barrels daily, was announced on March 3 as Egypt's contribution to an international effort to reduce a glut on the world market and shore up prices.

The spokesman, who demanded anonymity, said new export prices for the April 1-15 period will be \$17.40 a barrel for the top grade Gulf of Suez blend; \$16.55

a barrel for Belayim; \$15.40 a barrel for Ras Badran; and \$15.10 a barrel for Ras Ghareb.

Export prices increased across the board twice in March, by 15 cents a barrel in the first half and by \$1.60 a barrel in the second half.

Egypt's current production is 870,000 to 900,000 barrels daily, almost half exported and the rest consumed domestically.

The Oil Ministry statement announcing the production cut said it was a "major sacrifice" by Egypt to help producers in an outside the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Egypt is not a member of the organisation but generally is guided by its policies.

## GIC projects under review

THE general assembly of the Gulf Investment Corporation held its annual meeting in Amman, Jordan yesterday. The meeting was attended by the ministers of finance of the Gulf Co-operation Council countries.

The meeting reviewed and approved the annual accounts of the corporation. GIC's activities in promoting and investment in projects within the GCC countries was also reviewed.

At the end of 1988, GIC's total assets stood at \$171.7 million. Net income for the year was \$38.4 million.

Direct investments in projects in the GCC countries increased from \$10 million at the end of 1987 to around \$50 million at the end of 1988.

The amount represents GIC's participation in the capital of 11 projects located in the various GCC countries.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Japan's jobless rate still 2.3 pc: officials

TOKYO, March 31. (AP): Japan's seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate remained at 2.3 per cent in February for the third straight month, while job offers inched up, the government officials announced today.

Japan's unemployment rate would be about double if it was calculated according to Western methods, Japanese officials say.

In Japan, armed forces personnel and people working more than one hour in the last week of the month — when data is tabulated — are counted as employed. In the United States, military personnel are not considered part of the labour force, and those working less than 15 hours a week are considered unemployed.

## Plan to relax import, currency controls

BELGRADE, March 31. (Reuters): The Yugoslav government has decided to scrap import controls for private firms and relax foreign exchange controls. Tanjug news agency said today.

The moves are part of reforms intended to create an open market for goods, labour and capital to revive an economy saddled with 346 per cent inflation, a \$22 billion foreign debt and 1.17 million unemployed.

Prices, imports and the foreign exchange regime have been liberalised gradually since last May under an austerity package imposed by then Prime Minister Branko Mikulic.

He resigned in December in a parliamentary rift over inflation but his successor Ante Markovic, a liberal reformer who took office this month, pledged to deregulate the economy further.

## IBM Japan unveils \$640 million profits

TOKYO, March 31. (AP): IBM Japan Ltd earned net profits of \$65.23 billion yen (\$640.8 million) in 1988, up 14.7 per cent from the previous year, thanks to Japan's expanding economy and steady demand for information processing equipment, the company announced yesterday.

The company said domestic sales grew by 12.8 per cent to \$38.5 billion yen (\$373.1 billion) while exports rose by 10.1 per cent to \$26.7 billion yen (\$260.7 billion). The increase in exports resulted mainly from volume shipment of small magnetic disk drives, it added.

The company, which employs 21,000 people, said efforts to improve productivity and cut costs also contributed to higher income in 1988.

## India to buy more oil from Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, March 31. (Reuters): India will virtually double its crude supplies from Abu Dhabi this year to around 7.3 million barrels, an Indian embassy spokesman said yesterday.

A delegation from the state-run Indian Oil Corp (IOC) signed a contract in February for one million tonnes with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (ADNOC), he said.

A deal to import kerosene and diesel worth \$165 million would be signed with ADNOC soon, he said, but declined to give further details.

## France to expand trade with Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 31. (Reuters): French Industry Minister Roger Fauroux, arrived yesterday at the head of a 12-member trade delegation, said he hoped during a five-day visit to work toward expanding trade between France and Israel.

Israel imported \$545 million of French goods and exported \$400 million in goods in 1988, the Israeli Foreign Ministry said.

## Holy Land Travel

## OUR WEEKEND RATES

CAIRO		4 days 3 nights		DUBAI	BAHRAIN	
Samir Amis Intco	KD150	Al-Khaleej Palace	KD100	Regency Introc	KD 60	
Marriott	KD148	Dubai Sheraton	KD 98	Bahrain Sheraton	KD 55	
Gizera Sheraton	KD138	Arabian Island	KD 80	Delmon	KD 48	
Nile Hilton	KD138	Al Khaleej	KD 80	DAMASCUS		
Ramesses Hilton	KD135					
Meridien	KD138	SHARJAH			Meridien	KD160
Shepherd	KD130		Vendome		KD120	
Flamenco	KD120		Sharjah Continental		KD 80	
				New Omayad	KD112	



## Musical night

INDIAN folk flavour and sitar music was the theme of a variety show presented by Sur Sangeet at the IAC on Thursday night. Edwin Dass, a well-known sitarist, gave recital followed by a session of Hindi, Punjabi songs by vocalists led by Shah Nawaz Karim, his wife Sabina, Qamar Parvez, Charles Dass, Doreen, Aboobaker, Sheela, Mamta Kumari and child singers Fawzia, Rami, Majadar Nazmi and Jatin Sahni. Laxmi Raju made her classical dance debut. Folk dances were presented by various Indian groups. A light touch was provided by mimic and actor Arif Kazi. Indian Embassy Head of Chancery Abdul Khaliq was the chief guest. Picture on right shows some of the folk dancers; below: Edwin Dass in recital.



● Jordanian artists are showing their latest collection at an exhibition of contemporary art which is now open at the Free Ateliers Studio, Arabian Gulf Street. The display has been organised by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters in co-operation with the Jordanian Embassy. It will be open daily from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm, until April 6. Above: Focus on the uprising in the occupied territories.

## WHAT'S ON

### ARTS

#### Sultan Gallery

UNTIL April 7: Paintings by Shaker Hussain are on show at the gallery, Thunayan Al Ghanim Bldg., Al Soor St., daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 8 pm.

#### Modern Soviet Art

UNTIL April 6: Modern Soviet art is on show at the Kuwait National Museum. Organised by the Soviet embassy in co-operation with the National Council for Culture Arts and Letters.

#### Free Atelier Studio

UNTIL April 8: A Jordanian art exhibition is open at the Free Atelier Studio, Gulf St., daily from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm. The show has been organised by the Jordanian embassy in co-operation with the National Council for Culture Arts and Letters.

#### Ghadir Gallery

APRIL 2 to 13: Yemeni artist Abdullah Al Amin will show his latest paintings at the Ghadir Gallery, Sahiyah Complex. The exhibition will be open from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 8.30 pm.

#### Formative Arts Show

UNTIL April 5: A formative arts show is being held at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery. More than 80 paintings by Arab and Gulf artists are on display. Open daily from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm.

### THEATRE

#### Malayalam Drama

APRIL 7: Gayathri Arts will present their first Malayalam drama "Karutha Pournami" at Indian Arts Circle. Written by Chandran and directed by Nandan Iningalakuda. For entry passes call 5643126.

### SOCIAL

#### German-Speaking Cultural Association

APRIL 7 (Saturday): The election for the new committee will take place on Saturday, 8 pm, at the Holiday Inn, Ballroom. All members are urgently requested to attend.

#### St Georges Day

APRIL 20: KLT celebrate St Georges Day at Unity Centre, Ahmadi. Entertainment and

refreshments. To join them, call 3983724; 3985964.

### SPORTS

#### L & M Open Team bowling tournament

APRIL 6: 6.30 to 9.30 pm and thereafter every Wednesday and Thursday the open team bowling tournament will be held at Holiday Inn Hotel; organised by KAPILKU.

#### Raft Race

APRIL 4: 6.30 pm. A Captains' meeting will be held for Messiah Beach Hotel's third raft race. For details call the hotel, ext. 751.

### HOTELS

#### At Messiah Beach

MUBARAKIYAH Restaurant: Open 24 hours, buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner and snacks. Sundays: Ladies Day; Mondays: birthday special; Fridays: special buffet "a go go".

#### At the Holiday Inn

Enjoy Arabian Night in Al Andalus Supper Club on Thursday nights. Friday brunch — fun time for families; games, prizes. Also open to Jayce Club members.

#### At the Ramada

AL BENDAR Coffee Shop offers Continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner; 6 am to midnight; a la carte available.

The Friday Family Brunch introduces cartoon characters on the slide's discovery; train tour of the hotel's garden and waterfront.

The Marina Takeaway Counter features a selection of sandwiches and snacks, 4 pm to 11 pm.

#### At the Kuwait Plaza

AL DALLAH Coffee Shop: Breakfast buffet, lunch and dinner; also set menu; mini-business lunch.

Marco Polo Restaurant: Italian food, live music by the Duonova band.

#### Lolouwah Corner

Open from 4 to 10 pm, offering snacks and refreshments.

#### At the Continental

GARDENIA: 7 am to midnight; buffets featuring Arabic, Continental and Indian food. Special buffet for Thursday dinner and Friday lunch. Dabbar: daily Indian lunch buffet, except Friday; a la carte dinner.



## TV CORNER

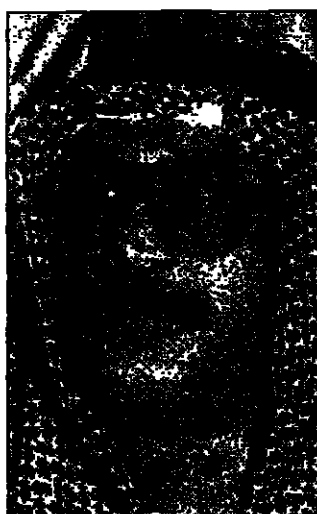
### TV timings in Ramadan

SALEM Al Fahad, the assistant undersecretary for television affairs, said KTV 1 will broadcast 16 hours per day in Ramadan.

He said KTV 1 will open at 11 am in the morning and close at 3 am, before Fajr prayer, during the month of Ramadan, which is expected to start this week on Thursday or Friday, depending on the sighting of the moon.

In addition to a series of religious programmes in Arabic, several special serials will be shown during Ramadan, he said. These include a soap opera, produced by KTV, featuring Mohammad Al Mansour, Ahmad Saleh, Huda Hussain and Mohammad Al Sarce. Some of the latest Arabic feature films will also be included in the schedule in addition to a daily Ramadan TV competition, he said.

During Ramadan, KTV 11 will open at the later time of 8 pm, instead of the present 6 pm, and broadcasts will continue until well past midnight. Islamic Horizon, Why Islam and Sayings of the Prophet (PBUH), are some of the religious programmes scheduled for showing in Ramadan. KTV 1 and 11 will also announce their Ramadan schedule later this week.



Salem Al Fahad

### SUNDAY

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Dennis the Menace: cartoon serial
- 6.30 The Animal Express
- 7.00 Wonderstruck: a look at the latest innovations in science and technology.
- 7.30 Life with Lucy: comedy. Lucy wants to prove she is better than her friend.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 Magnum: "Great Hawaiian Ad." starring: Tom Selleck.
- 9.40 Dive to Adventure: documentary
- 10.00 Perfect Strangers: "Just Desserts". Balki's friends ask him to produce an Italian desert on a commercial scale.
- 10.30 Best-seller: "A Dangerous Life". Part 3. Marcos fights back to stop the "reformed officers' rebellion in his army.
- 11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/ Holy Quran/ Closedown

### MONDAY

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Bionic Six: cartoon serial
- 6.30 Just the Ten of US: "First Day". Comedy.
- 7.00 Roving Report: news review featuring an update on Arab and world events.
- 7.33 Perspective: "Sporting Science." A look at the agility and flexibility of the human body.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 A Different World: "A Wild Child." Dennis and Duane think about it but Gogo goes ahead and gets a scholarship. Comedy. Starring: Lisa Bonet, Dawn Lewis, Marisa Tomei.
- 9.08 Survival: "Galapagos: The Ocean Travellers." A look at immigrant birds.
- 10.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: "The Survival of the Fittest". Thriller.
- 10.30 French Feature Film: "Le Veuve Couderc." Starring: Alain Delon, Pierre Collet, Raymond Bannan.
- 11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/ Holy Quran/ Closedown

### TUESDAY

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Noveltoons: Cartoons
- 6.30 The Kids of Degrassi Street: "Sophie Minds"



A scene from Monday night's French feature, starring Alain Delon and Pierre Collet.

## This week on KTV 2



Edward Woodward plays The Equaliser.

- 7.00 A Finite World: "Global Population: Problems and Solutions."
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 Five Mile Creek: "Thanksgiving."
- 9.40 Risking it All: "Everest Unmasked." Messner's attempt to conquer the Everest.
- 10.10 Bustin' Loose: "The Grass Isn't Greener." Starring: Larry Williams Comedy.
- 10.30 The Equaliser: "No Place Like Home." A new family in town is in big trouble. McCall tries to help them. Starring: Edward Woodward.
- 11.30 News Summary/followed by Magazine D'Actualite/ Closedown

### WEDNESDAY

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Rabiki cartoon serial
- 6.30 Prestige: "The Electric Grandmother."
- 7.25 Mutual of Omaha: "Marsh Spring." A look at marshes in Utah.
- 7.50 You and the Law
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.55 The Law and Harry McGraw: "Harry Does the Huskies." Harry handles the case of a swindler and black-mailer.
- 9.40 Private Benjamin: "When It's Not, It's Not." Private Benjamin is charged with spreading rumours.
- 10.10 Just for Laughs: comedy.
- 10.30 Feature Film: "The Marva Collins Story." Starring: Cicely Tyson, Morgan Freeman, Rodrick Wimberly, Kelly Crosby, Tyson

plays real-life Chicago schoolteacher Marva Collins, who was disillusioned with the conventional public schools, quit and started one of her own. The most remarkable part of the story is that her students, considered slow, even retarded by school authorities, thrived in an atmosphere of love, discipline and dedication to learning. Director: Peter Levin. Made for TV. 1981. 104 minutes.

- 12.35 News Summary/followed by Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/ Closedown

### THURSDAY

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 The Real Ghost Busters: cartoon serial.
- 6.30 Walt Disney Movie: "So Dear to My Heart." Starring: Burl Ives, Beulah Bondi, Bobby Driscoll. Disney nostalgia about life on a country farm. The animated sequences reinforce the live-action.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 The Beauty and the Beast: "Remember Love." Katherine invites Vincent to live in her world.
- 9.40 Paul Daniels Magic Show
- 10.30 Late Night Movie: "Family Sins." Starring: James Farentino, Jilly Eikenbury.
- 12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/ Closedown

### FRIDAY

- 8.00 Holy Quran
- 8.10 Islamic Horizon
- 8.20 Cartoons
- 8.30 Intergang: a gang boss wants to get hold of a book.
- 9.00 News in English
- 9.30 Sayings of the Prophet
- 9.45 Why Islam: a special programme for Ramadan.
- 10.00 Big League Soccer: Brian Moore introduces British League Soccer games.
- 12.00 Hunter: A woman is out to kill the man who sent her to prison — a policeman named Hunter.
- 1.30 News Summary
- 1.45 Magazine D'Actualite/ Holy Quran/ Closedown

Services will be held in memory of

**Romana Fernandes**

at the National Evangelical Church at 15.00 Hours and in the Holy Family Cathedral at 16.30 Hours on Saturday 1st April, 1989.

FRIENDS & RELATIVES.

## TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

### KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.15 Cartoon serial
- 10.00 Al Mubarrat: Arabic serial: featuring Mahmoud Saud, Ahmad Mazhar, Safiya Al Omari, Ahmad Maher
- 11.00 Al Daktoor: Arabic serial, starring Hayat Al Fahad, Khalid Al Obaid, Tayeba Al Farah, Abdul Aziz Haddad
- 12.00 Gulf Cuisine
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 World News via Satellite/Closedown

### EVENING

- 4.00 Holy Quran
- 4.15 World News via Satellite
- 4.45 Hikayat Alamiya: cartoon serial
- 5.15 Young Artists
- 5.45 Nazrat Alal Alam
- 6.00 Islam Wal Insaan: daily serial
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.15 Nur Al Islam: religious serial
- 7.50 Security and Citizens
- 8.30 Good Evening
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Daerat Al Ahdath: Circle of Events. Guests are Ezzat Mohammad Jaafar, Ali Salem Abu Hadida and Naef



Angela Lansbury stars in A Talent for Murder, tonight's feature film on KTV 2 at 10.30 pm.

- 10.45 Mubarak Mo'sharji: Arabic play, featuring Hassan Yusuf, Laila Taher, Raja Jadawi, Ashraf Abdulaziz
- 12.15 News Summary/World News via Satellite/Closedown

### KTV 2

- 4.00 Holy Quran
- 4.06 Duck Tales
- 4.30 The Scheme of

- Things: documentary
- 5.00 Taekwondo and Karate Championship
- 7.00 Sea Urchins: a tale of adventure for young viewers
- 7.30 Throb: "The Confidence Game." Comedy set in a record company.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 A special programme on World Health Day
- 9.05 Our House: "Out of Step." Gus tries to help his step-daughter, Jessie, who works as a media consultant.
- 9.45 National Geographic: "Lions of the African Night."
- 10.30 Made-for-TV Movie: "A Talent for Murder." Starring: Angela Lansbury, Lawrence Olivier. A birthday party ends in the murder of one of the guests.
- 11.55 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/ Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

## RADIO PROGRAMMES

### BBC World Services

- 0000 Newdesk
- 30 Personal View
- 45 Recording of the Week (ex 8th Grand National Preview)
- 0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 25 Financial News
- 30 Life Along the Line (ex 29th Poetry of the Century)
- 45 Book Choice
- 50 New ideas
- 0200 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Network UK
- 30 People and Politics
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 The World Today
- 30 The Vintage Chart Show
- 0400 Newdesk
- 30 Here's Humph! (ex 8th Grand National Preview)
- 45 Personal View
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Financial News
- 40 Words of Faith
- 45 The World Today
- 0600 Newdesk
- 30 Meridian
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 From the Weeklies
- 45 Network UK
- 0800 World News
- 09 Words of Faith
- 15 A Jolly Good Show
- 0900 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 The World Today
- 30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
- 45 Personal View

- 1000 News Summary followed by Here's Humph!
- 15 Letter from America
- 30 People and Politics
- 1100 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Life Along the Line (ex 29th Poetry of the Century)
- 30 Meridian
- 1200 Newdesk
- 15 Multitrack 3
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Network UK
- 45 Sportsround
- 1400 News Summary followed by Sportsround contd
- 1500 Newdesk
- 09 Book Choice
- 1600 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Sportsround contd
- 1700 World News
- 09 Book Choice
- 1800 Newdesk
- 30 Jazz for the Asking (ex 1st and 8th Composer of the Month)
- 1900 News Summary followed by 1st and 8th Play of the Week: Body and Soul; 15th Who Was Hitler?; 22nd and 29th Open of the Week
- 45 Personal View (ex 1st and 8th Play of the Week contd)
- 2000 World News
- 09 From Our Own Correspondent
- 25 Words of Faith
- 30 Meridian
- 2100 News Summary followed by Sports Roundup
- 15 Life Along the Line (ex 29th Poetry of the Century)
- 30 1st and 8th And So To Bed;

### English

#### MORNING

- 0800 Opening
- 0802 Songs and Music
- 0805 Science Journal
- 0820 Songs and Music
- 0840 Songs and Music
- 0915 Daily Programme
- 0930 Radio Magazine
- 1000 Our Press Today
- 1005 Songs and Music
- 1030 Songs and Music
- 1100 Closedown

#### EVENING

- 2100 Opening
- 2102 Bits and Bytes
- 2130 News
- 2145 Point of View
- 2155 Songs and Music
- 2200 Facts About Zionism
- 2215 Magazine Special
- 2245 Daily Programme
- 2300 Full Mail
- 2400 Closedown

### Urdu

- 1900 Opening Holy Quran
- 1910 Shereen Qut
- 1920 jugs
- 1935 1st report
- 1940 1st report
- 1945 1st report
- 1950 1st report
- 1955 1st report
- 1960 1st report
- 1965 1st report
- 1970 1st report
- 1975 1st report
- 1980 1st report
- 1985 1st report
- 1990 1st report
- 1995 1st report
- 2000 1st report
- 2005 1st report
- 2010 1st report
- 2015 1st report
- 2020 1st report
- 2025 1st report
- 2030 1st report
- 2035 1st report
- 2040 1st report
- 2045 1st report
- 2050 1st report
- 2055 1st report
- 2100 Closedown

## CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus
- Florida Straits
- Starring: Raul Julia, Farid Ward
- Al Salmiya
- Inner Space
- Starring: Dennis Quaid
- Al Hamra
- Ell'Al Ami (Arabic)
- Starring: Ilham Shahin, Mohsin Mohiuddin
- Drive-In
- Amber Al Mant (Arabic)
- Starring: Noor Al Shareef, Afaf Shuaib
- Al Firdous
- Suraj (Hindi)
- Starring: Rajinder Kumar, Vyjayantimala
- Fahad Open-Air
- Dil-e-Nadaan (Hindi)

- Al Fahad
- Aparan (Bengali)
- Al Jabra
- C.O.D.
- Granada
- Less than Zero
- Salahkhat
- Rajul fi Sijn Nisa'a (Arabic)
- Al Jeeb
- Aliens
- Almadi Drive-In
- The Second Degree

### PRAYERS

- Fajr 4.16 am
- Zohr 11.52
- Asr 3.23 pm
- Maghreb 6.07
- Isha 7.27

**ALARADI INTERNATIONAL'S**

*Herend* **EXHIBITION**

HAND-MADE, HAND-PAINTED LUXURY PORCELAIN  
HAND-CUT AND HAND-MADE LEAD CRYSTAL

MONDAY — 6.00 - 9.00  
TUESDAY 9.30 - 1.00 4.30 - 9.00  
WEDNESDAY 9.30 - 1.00 4.30 - 9.00  
THURSDAY 9.30 - 1.00 4.30 - 9.00

**DEMONSTRATION**  
PORCELAIN PAINTING - CRYSTAL ENGRAVING

**ROOFTOP BALLROOM**  
**HOTEL SHERATON**



Dance music is alive and well thanks to S'express

# Keeping the avant-garde flag flying

By Bruce Dessau

WHILE British rock music seems to be slipping into middle age, with record companies playing safe and relying on old names, British dance music has never been healthier. The last 12 months have finally seen home-grown club-derived music overtake its American rap counterparts and finally establish itself as a lasting force.

Ad hoc groups of producers, DJs and singers making up MARRS, Bombs, The Bass and Yazz have paved the way, but the biggest success has come from S'Express. Led by Mark Moore, their first single, Theme From S'Express, recorded for a trifling £500, topped the charts last summer aided by extended coverage amid the acid house frenzy, and has been followed into the Top Ten by the wry blaxploitation movie homage Superfly Guy and Hey Music Lover.

Their debut album, Original Soundtrack, put the seal on a hectic 12 months for their teetotal orchestra. The tide is an unwitting ironic nod to the fact that, unlike his peers, he has eschewed the lazy excessive sampling of other records in favour of creating new sounds in the studio.

There are still some samples in his locomotive mix of pop, house, hip hop and rap, but they are merely cogs in the success of S'Express rather than the key to it. In the aftermath of last year's acid house hiatus, Mark Moore has managed to take British music one dancestep beyond.

Once combining DJing with the job of A&R man, with a remit to spot talent for the label Rhythm King, Moore is now Rhythm King's star attraction.

Relaxing in the managing director's seat at his record company's office, the youthful Anglo-Korean remains partially supportive of the scene that helped to propel him to stardom. "The drugs sensationalism was ridiculous. More people take drugs on breakfast TV. But as a form of music, Acid House started off as a very good, original thing."

"In the past we had Britfunk and Britsoul, but it was all a bit wishy washy, just pale imitations of American bands. With rap and hip hop, Britain could never really compete; the Americans had the style and accent to do it better than us and black bands like Public Enemy that had a political agenda which was too hard for middle-class white kids from England to relate to."

"But when house music came over to England in the last few years,

the rules had not been set rigidly so British musicians simply mixed it with their received notions of pop, sampled in some of their favourite rhythms and came up with a completely new kind of pop, which they called acid house."

But what started as a distinctly indigenous experimental arm of the much larger house scene that had emerged from the gay clubs of Chicago soon became bigger than its progenitor and swiftly ran out of steam. The music became formulaised.

Moore has endeavoured to keep the avant-garde flag flying with an unlikely alternative version of his current single, Hey Music Lover. A vibrant reworking of the track by wayward Seventies soul enigma Sly Stewart, it has recently been graced with a remix by the doyen of minimalism, Philip Glass. What seems like an unlikely, not to say unholy alliance, given the fundamentalist fervour, actually transpired to be a profound meeting of like minds.

Introduced by a friend when Glass was in London last autumn, the duo struck up a mutual admiration society. "I took him to a club and he stood there for five minutes with his head down, listening, then looked up and said, 'Yes, I understand it.'"

There seemed to be considerable meeting-ground between Glass's stark, cerebral craft and Moore's dance-floor ethic: "Both of us use techniques of layering sounds upon sounds, building up aural collages for the desired overall effect." This, combined with a shared irreverence for traditionalism, whether pop or classical, and a desire for a kind of freeform, non-narrative expressionism, made Glass an ideal partner in S'Express's brand of mutated pop.

Likewise, Original Soundtrack goes out of its way to avoid being bracketed with the throwaway mainstream by veering perversely from the pneumatic pop of Superfly Guy to pieces like Coma II (A.M.O.K.), with the repetitive thud of a continuous tape loop and a stark heartbeat that would have sounded more at home on a Steve Reich songcycle.

The only thing standing in S'Express's way now seems to be categorisation. In America, national pop stations will not play them because they consider the music to be black music, while black radio stations will not play them because they are "too pop." Even in England, however, S'Express's non-conformist approach has led to their marginalisation by the media. "Radio One doesn't play our records until they reach the Top 20. Their view of dance music is Stock, Aitken and Waterman."



Mark Moore: the Anglo-Korean leader of S'express.

## All that Yazz

Yazz  
(Nee  
Yasmin  
Evans)

The music of the 28-year-old half Jamaican is a dizzying concoction of House, R&B and heavy-duty 1970's disco.

"I AM not the House-music queen of England, nor do I want to be," says Yazz, the slinky Briton whose dance album Wanted is a bit in the States too. But argue though she may, her top-20 single, "The Only Way Is Up," is fast becoming a House club anthem the world over. The music of the 28-year-old-half-Jamaican is a dizzying concoction of House, R&B, and heavy-duty 1970's disco.

Yazz's early years included some civil servitude: "I worked in the post office as a tele-operator, and in the Insurance and Claims Department at London Transport. I never really wanted to be a singer," she says. "I only wanted enough money to buy clothes that would get me into the clubs. That's why I became a model. Modelling took her to Germany, where an offbeat, half-caste rose like Yazz (nee Yasmin Evans) was appreciated. "I worked with all the ex-Bluebell tit-and-feather girls from the Lido in Paris — we were a raucous bunch."

These days Yazz spoils herself with jaunts to Jamaica, where she hokes up at Lady Diane's Health and Fitness Resort in an effort to wear off her favourite childhood staple — "pig trotters."

By Marcus Berkman

AFTER a year which saw more aged rock stars emerge from the woodwork than ever before, 1989 promises ... yet more aged rock stars.

The idea of pop music as something for 'Ver Kids' is now hopelessly outdated, as are most of the people playing it.

This year we see the return of those vibrant young talents Paul McCartney, The Who and the Rolling Stones, not to mention the 348th incarnation of those gnarled old technobores Yes. At least a couple of this lot must be staring the bus pass in the eye.

How do they do it? Their greatest achievement has been, of course, to remain alive and relatively compos mentis. But, whereas pop stars may

Aged pop stars continue the show

## Rocking for money?

sometimes lose their marbles, their accountants always retain theirs, and there are large wads to be made for any Sixties or Seventies rocker still around.

Perhaps the most heartening news of all is the much-mooted return of the Rolling Stones.

### Promise

Huge cheques are, of course, one inspiration behind the venture, but the abject failure of Mick Jagger's two inept solo albums has certainly sped things along. If they can keep Keith Richards' batteries charged up, and someone puts some bromide in Bill Wyman's tea, it could be

interesting. As for Paul McCartney, the news of his tour (which may include dates in Russia, no less) has been rather overshadowed by the promise of his new album, recorded in part with Elvis Costello.

It really is an intriguing combination of talents. McCartney's capacity for melodic invention and arrangement matched with Costello's acerbic hard edge and lyrical brilliance could be a disaster — or a work of genius.

The return of The Who is another intriguing proposition. Why are they doing it?

It's hard to imagine that they have run out of money. Perhaps they're just bored; trout farming can't be that exciting, even if you do have an American Express card.

The promotional circus (album, world tour, interviews, T-shirts and commemorative mugs) kicks off in the summer.

Other live performances include a couple of shows by the Bee Gees in April or May (tight trousers compulsory), Stevie Wonder's seven nights at the Wembley Arena in May, and that dreaded Yes reunion.

Diana Ross has six dates lined up in April and May, with a new single and album as well.

Of all the comebacks, though, one is perhaps the most inevitable: Madonna.

Her first album in two and a half years is due for the autumn, with the inevitable world tour following soon after.

It's not an especially enticing prospect, but there's one consolation: If she's busy on tour, she won't have time to make any films.

## Bangles sound better: on top

LONDON (AP): For the third straight week, Like a Prayer by Madonna and Too Many Broken Hearts by Australian soap opera star Jason Donovan held on to the top two spots on the British pop singles chart.

Donna Summer's This Time I Know It's For Real moved into third spot from fourth, trading places with Paula Abdul's Straight Up.

Keep on Movin' by Soul II Soul and Caron Wheeler remained at number 5.

Appearing in the top 10 for the first time this week were Eternal Flame by Bangles and Don't Be Cruel by Bobby Brown.

This week's top 10 singles, as listed by One Price Music Ltd., the national music retail chain, with last week's placings in parentheses:

### Top Ten UK

1. (1) Like a Prayer — Madonna (Sire)  
2. (2) Too Many Broken Hearts — Jason Donovan (PWL)

3. (4) This Time I Know It's for Real — Donna Summer (Warner Bros.)

4. (3) Straight Up — Paula Abdul (Sire)

5. (5) Keep on Movin' — Soul II Soul and Caron Wheeler (10 Records)

6. (7) Can't Stay Away from You — Gloria Estefan and Miami Sound (CBS)

7. (9) Paradise City — Guns n' Roses (Geffen)

8. (5) Stop — Sam Brown (A and M)

9. (38) Eternal Flame — Bangles (CBS)

10. (24) Don't Be Cruel — Bobby Brown (MCA)

In New York, the Bangles took over the top of the pop singles record chart in the United States Wednesday with their new hit Eternal Flame.

The disc hopped from second position a week ago.

Milli Vanilli's Girl You Know It's True moved up one notch to second place on the Cash Box magazine chart. The Look by Roxette soared from seventh to third spot.

Last week's number one hit, The Living Years by Mike and

the Mechanics, nosedived to sixth place.

The week's only newcomer to the top 10 pop list was Dreamin' by Vanessa Williams, up from 11th to 10th.

### Top Ten US

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in parentheses:

1. (2) Eternal Flame — The Bangles (Columbia)

2. (3) Girl You Know It's True — Milli Vanilli (Arista)

3. (7) The Look — Roxette (EMI)

4. (5) My Heart Can't Tell You No — Rod Stewart (Warner Bros.)

5. (10) She Drives Me Crazy — Fine Young Cannibals (IRS)

6. (1) The Living Years — Mike and the Mechanics (Atlantic)

7. (8) Walk the Dinosaur — Was (Not Was) (Chrysalis)

8. (4) Paradise City — Guns n' Roses (Geffen)

9. (9) You're Not Alone — Chicago (Warner Bros.)

10. (11) Dreamin' — Vanessa Williams (Wing-Polygram)

The top 10 country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in parentheses:

1. (3) Down That Road Tonight — Nitty Gritty Dirt Band (Warner Bros.)

2. (1) Baby's Gotten Good at Goodbye — George Strait (MCA)

3. (5) I'm No Stranger to the Rain — Keith Whitley (RCA)

4. (4) Heartbreak Hill — Emmylou Harris (Reprise)

5. (10) There's A Tear in My Beer — Hank Williams Jr. (Duet With Hank Williams Sr.) (Warner Bros.-Curb)

6. (9) Who You Gonna Blame It On This Time — Vern Gossdin (Columbia)

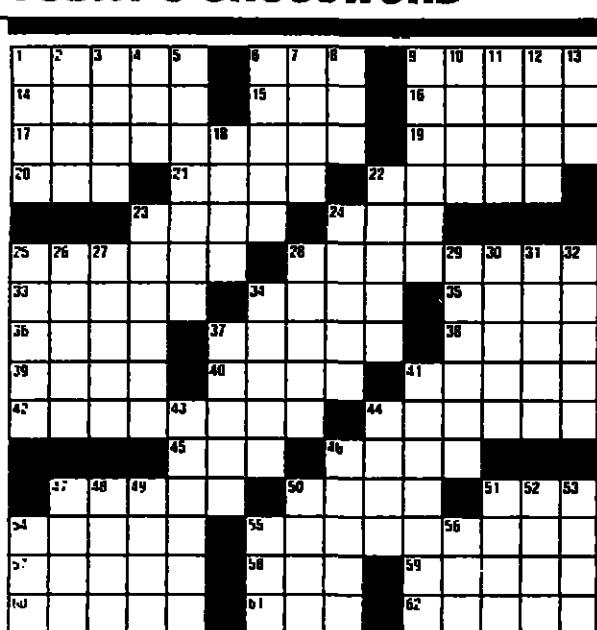
7. (8) From the Word Go — Michael Martin Murphey (Warner Bros.)

8. (12) The Church on Cumberland Road — Shenandoah (Columbia)

9. (2) New Fool At An Old Game — Reba McEntire (MCA)

10. (7) Come As You Were — T. Graham Brown (Capitol)

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**  
1 Michelangelo masterpiece  
6 Radio M6s  
9 Locations  
14 Beginning  
15 — Palmos  
16 Lake in N  
17 Patron saint of  
18 Down  
19 Financial certificate  
20 Top for one  
21 Feller  
22 Irish playwright  
23 Deal in Roma  
24 Not again in  
25 Fair from  
26 Famous Flame  
27 Lhasa is its  
28 Communist  
29 Student's trial  
30 Field  
31 Trashing instrument  
32 Official records  
33 Pitching stats  
34 Part of an  
35 change  
36 Fencers  
37 weapons  
38 City in the  
39 Shannan  
40 Cities  
41 Tavern order  
42 Rank tennis  
43 players  
44 Symbol of  
45 slowness  
46 Former TV host  
47 Joe  
48 New woman  
49 Don't use and  
50 Sivers  
51 Sit in County

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
BRIDGE CRIMES CAN PAY

Both vulnerable. West deals.

**NORTH**

♠ Void

♥ Q 8 6 5

♦ A K 10 9 7 4 3

♣ A Q

**WEST**

♠ A K J 9 3

♥ J 10 2

♦ 5

♣ K 8 7 2

**EAST**

♠ Q 10 6 5 2

♥ K

♦ 6 2

♣ J 10 6 4 3

**SOUTH**

♠ 8 7 4

♥ A 9 7 4 3

♦ Q J 8

♣ 9 5

The bidding:

West North East South

1 ♠ Dbl 4 ♠ Pass

Pass Dbl Pass 6 ♠

Pass Pass Dbl Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

In the best of all possible worlds,

you would be rewarded for your

good deeds and punished for your

crimes. In real life, unfortunately,

that is not always the case.

When North could force his partner

to bid at the five-level vulnerable

with his repeat takeout double,

South judged that his cards would

all be working, so he leaped to six

hearts. East's did not have a double of seven hearts, let alone six. However, his action had strange repercussions in the play.

West led the king of spades, ruffed in dummy. Declarer could think of no reason for East's double other than a trump stack. In order to hold his trump losers to two should East have started with all four trumps, declarer elected to lead the queen at trick two. That also offered a chance to make the contract should West have a singleton jack or ten.

West covered perforce, and declarer won the ace. There was still one chance for the contract—that trumps were 2-2—so declarer led a trump. West was able to take two trump tricks and two spades for down three—800 points out of thin air.

Had there been no double, declarer would have made the contract easily. The normal way to play the trump suit is to cash the ace, then lead toward the queen. Since the king would have dropped, declarer would have had no trouble in holding his trump losers to only one, so he would have romped home with his contract.



## THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brian Koppelman and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



## YOUR STARS

**Aries (March 20 - April 18)**  
You will feel nearer the top of the world but you must not overdo things. You will be too inclined to believe what you hear. You are liable to lose interest. Be temperate.

**Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**  
You will have to adapt yourself to the circumstances. You are liable to be a little unsure of yourself. You will not find it easy to accept some changes that cannot be avoided. Be tolerant.

**Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**  
The better influence of the Sun and of Venus will help you to maintain harmony with your partner. You must be careful not to eat so much that you put on weight. Make sure you do not get into a muddle. Be alert.

**Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**  
Something you have been learning will now come in very useful. You should not allow yourself to become overruled. Do not get annoyed with yourself or others. Be reliable.

**Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)**  
You should not allow yourself to be persuaded to do something against your better judgement. You should think a little longer before making a choice. Do not try to do too many things all at one time. Be sincere.

**Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)**  
You would do better to act slowly but surely than to make too much haste. You will be able to deal with a practical problem. You should relax but at the same time there is no time to waste. Be prompt.

**Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)**  
You will have the wind in your sails but you should make sure you are heading in the right direction. You will be able to have a bit of harmless fun. You should not allow work to interfere with your private life. Be hopeful.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**  
You will tend to make mistakes and should check carefully on what you have done. You will tend to get rather too bogged down in detail. But you cannot ignore details altogether. You should try not to put all your eggs into one basket.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**  
You will have something to be pleased about today. You will be able to show a little more enthusiasm. Make sure that you check your calculations. Your lucky numbers are 51 and 49. Be a little more moderate.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**  
You should not allow yourself to be dissuaded from something you feel is right. You would do well to try to use a little more common-sense. Avoid spending money in the expectation of some good luck or a windfall. Be sincere.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**  
The Moon's better influence will help you to get a move on. You should not expect others to do for you something that is really up to you. Make sure you get enough regular and not too violent exercise. Be discerning.

**Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)**  
You should try to adopt a more steady pace instead of doing things by leaps and starts. It would be wrong for you to say something you do not really mean. Avoid interfering in something that is not really any concern of yours.

مكتبة الامم



By Suzy Patterson

PARIS, (AP): Short or long skirts, fitted or trapeze coats — the fashion capital saw several silhouettes during the weeklong winter ready-to-wear fashion circus held recently.

As fashion sails into the 1990s, the passage may be a bit rough for designers who don't seem to know where to turn and women looking for direction. But the good news is that the individual is truly free to choose her style, whether in pants and skirts of jackets and coats. And there is no evidence of designers conspiring to put women into stylishly ridiculous gear.

Those fed up with the skirt-length dilemma may just abandon the skirt altogether and wear a beautiful hacking jacket or dressier model over opaque tights. Lagerfeld showed them both at his own and at the Chanel collection, with an elegant bow to the 1960s.

Elsewhere, skirts were the familiar skinny and short models to just above the knee, or nearly ankle-length in trumpet shapes, pleated or handsome in a circle of leather at Ungaro.

Christian Lacroix went his own eccentric way, showing both softly feminine silhouettes and his favourite flowing trapeze styles. Some loved his loud patchwork looks for ready-to-wear; others were dazzled by his more expensive "luxury" collection, shimmering with Byzantine splendour.

Shoulders everywhere were softened or reduced to natural proportions in feminine silhouettes that marked the waist without undue emphasis.

The new long jacket was gently fitted, sometimes with a martingale belting the back, while some were asymmetrical in front, or outlined in bold piping. Yet others appeared in swallow-tail or cutaway style.

Snug Spencers, battle jackets and flyaway boleros shared the honours for diminutive jacket styles.

You might look almost anywhere for trouser-suit styles, but not for the famous pyramid pants that seem to have bombed after their exciting launch last year.

From the men's wardrobe but looking handsomely feminine were the pinstriped bankers' suits at Hanae Mori and the straight tweed trousers pleated at the waist by master tailors Yves Saint Laurent and Jean-Louis Scherrer, who also showed a vest under his plaid blazer jackets.

While long redingotes and short hooded duffel jackets are looking terrific, Paris also offers some handsome belted trench coats, lounging coats or automobile coats in luxury cashmere or wool blends — sometimes collared and lined with generous lashings of fur.

Capes were a big item at Saint Laurent and Patrick Kelly, whose Little Red Riding Hood was a show-stealer. And the Italians like Angelo Tiarazzi and Romeo Gigli lovingly placed their models in cocoon coats. Gigli's fabulous Byzantine-

## Good news from Paris!

Fashion individualism for the 90's



Designer Pierre Balmain models displaying a combination of short jacket and pants during the collections show in Paris recently.

embroidered cocoon made news over his outfits in butterfly-light fabrics.

The colour spectrum gave women the biggest choice of all. It zoomed from a range of darks,

especially chocolate brown and charcoal, to autumnal beige, cognac, caramel, gold, mustard, olive and forest green. Not to mention the misty shades of lavender and pink.

Claude Montana's collection could be dubbed "the big blue," as he brought out every shade of it from glacier to deep petrol in his trouser suits with emphasis on the big draped collars.

But there were hot colours too, and those who loved red will be happy, as every shade of it pepped up the runways, from garnet, fire-engine or poppy to orange-coral, fuchsia and magenta.

The fabrics gave new softness to the clothes, with flecked tweeds, big and bold glen or windowpane grid plaids, looking peppy when placed on the diagonal.

Butter-soft leather, calfskin or suede gave the appeal of luxury to many outfits — remarkable when applied with arabesque designs on short Yves Saint Laurent jackets.

A taste for exoticism ran to wild-animal prints, done in various ways and fabrics at Hanae Mori, Scherrer, Lacroix and Kelly. But it was all ecological, since the only true furs seen were fox, vicuña, curly Mongolian lamb and a sprinkling of mink.

Montana's mink was the most amazing ever seen, dyed in his favourite blues and ridged to look like chenille or corduroy. Otherwise coats looked appealingly warm in bright mohairs or shetland.

Wool and silk jerseys were used generously in the softer styles — especially in dresses, which made a modest comeback for day wear. Knits often had ethnic overtones, black and white at Chanel, startlingly bright at Lacroix.

For late-day, the designers came up with some stunning cocktail suits or dresses with jackets — all fit to sup at the Ritz. Among the most memorable: Chanel's lightly-fitted gold corduroy-ridged lame jacket over a satin-piped wrapped skirt topped with floppy satin bows.

Black velvet gave opulent allure to day or evening clothes, and crimped panne or cut velvet added old-fashioned charm to much of the evening wear.

In fact, fabrics for after sunset were so luxurious that they defined the lines of the outfit. Satin and slithering crepe de chine were favourites for slinky dinner gowns of pyjamas.

Black silk "grain de poudre" was used in all versions of the "smoking" or tuxedo style — still a wardrobe staple, whether with pants or a skirt.

Sheer chiffon revealed body lines, while iridescent taffeta lightly puffed around it in other models. Lame fabrics and embroidery made evening wear look bewitchingly shimmering, sometimes sexy, but never glitzy.

And the lame brocades at houses like Hanae Mori, Lacroix and Saint Laurent shone with an extra dash of exoticism as the designers went at least part-way to the Far East, Byzantium or North Africa for inspiration.

## Callanetics: just how good is it?

By Victoria McKee

WE have the Duchess of York to thank for the current Callanetics craze. She first read about it in Australia, when she was alleged to be miserably flabby after Beatrice's birth.

She got so excited at the promise of a perfect body in 18 hours that she flew Callan Pinckney over to London from the United States, to supervise her through six days of intense, three-hour workouts.

Pinckney's *Callanetics* video was then rushed over to the UK and has been available here for several months. However, after an early surge of sales, it has slipped to number nine in the video charts — possibly because it is boring. I have been doing it for a week now (an hour a day), with no appreciable difference in appearance, although I believe that it has been strengthening my weak lower back and improving the mobility of a hip which had been injured in an earlier fall.

One of Britain's leading exercise experts, TV-am's Lizzie Webb, has followed the *Callanetics* video and is highly critical of Pinckney's claims. "You don't get a perfect figure from exercise alone, without eating sensibly as well," Webb says.

Dr Craig Sharp of Birmingham University, a leading exercise physiologist and adviser to the British Olympic team and the Association of Exercise Teachers, says cautiously: "New methods of exercise come along only once in a great while. Pinckney seems to be advocating almost isometric contractions, which is what the Charles Atlas method was — the opposing of one muscle to another. Isometric exercises can be associated with quite high blood-pressure rises, because you are putting strain on your system."

"If a woman has had to come off the Pill because of her blood pressure, she should be careful. If you hold a contraction for more than about 30 seconds you can get a marked rise known as the Lind Reflex — but if you do lots of little quick movements, such as Pinckney recommends, you shouldn't have to worry. From the muscle point of view, longer, slower movements are better — but not for the blood pressure," Sharp says.

"After pregnancy you could show quite a dramatic effect, as the Duchess of York did. But claims of such speed generally worry me: I'd think in terms of months rather than hours."

Dr Dan Tunstall Pedoe, medical director of the London Sports Medicine Institute, chairman of the British Association of Sports Medicine and a consultant cardiologist at St Bartholomew's Hospital, comments: "It all depends on what you start with. If you are seriously overweight there is no way exercise alone can give you the perfect body — it's against the basic laws of thermodynamics. But if you're just a little bit flabby it can produce better muscle tone that will make you look slimmer."

Pedoe adds: "I don't see the harm in what Pinckney does, for most people, as long as they do some aerobic exercise as well: spending at least 15 minutes, three times a week, swimming or cycling or running to get the circulation going."

Too much women's liberation

## Italy's macho men reassert themselves

By Jill Serjeant

MILAN, Italy, (Reuters): Italy's macho males feel under threat and reckon it's time to reassert themselves.

But in a country where most men wouldn't be seen dead carrying a shopping bag, scornful females say the spoilt Italian male has rarely had it so good.

In the same month as the Italian housewives' federation announced plans to fight the next general elections, a divorced Milanese entrepreneur was founding the national association for the salvation of the Italian male.

"Italian men have been trampled on by women for far too long. It's time for us to wake up and re-establish our lost supremacy," the association's president Umberto Gallini said.

Since Gallini placed a newspaper advertisement last month inviting unhappily married men to call his number, the telephone has rarely stopped ringing.

He now has 43 members united in a desire to shake off the yoke of matrimony and campaign for a national referendum to replace life-long commitment with a no-strings, three-year contract renewable only if both parties agree.

"We don't hate women — on the contrary. But they're cunning and sly while men are naive, and when a marriage is over, they rob you for all you've got," Gallini, 45, said.

According to his association the woes of the Italian male began in 1975 when parliament approved a new family code giving husbands and wives equal rights and duties.

Previously the husband was the legal head of the family and decided where it should live and how the children should be brought up.

"Women are always demanding something but they live longer than men, can retire earlier than men and when marriage is over they get half your money and property and use the children as emotional and financial blackmail."

"Now the housewives' federation is gearing up. We men really must be saved," he said.

As well as trying to gather support for a referendum to introduce the three-year contract, the association is organising all-male holidays to exotic destinations such as the Caribbean and Madagascar where the Italian male is still appreciated.

Hardly surprisingly such talk is guaranteed to ruffle the feathers of the Italian housewives' movement.

Formed only six years ago, the housewives' federation now counts 500,000 members dedicated to seeking recognition for the unpaid and unrecognised work that women do in the home.

To the horror of Gallini's group, they have about 900 male members. Most are widowers or divorced men unable to cope domestically without the female touch but a small number are men who support the cause, or husbands who have swapped jobs with career-minded wives.

"We still have the sort of culture in which women do everything. We are trying to change public opinion and persuade Italians that it's not un-macho for men to wash the floor, or make a cup of coffee," Alessandra Caradonna, president of the Northern Lombardy section of the federation said.

"I know many men, including my own husband, who will not even carry a shopping bag because they are afraid of what their male friends would say if they saw them," Caradonna said.

As in most other Western nations, the growth of industry coupled with higher material aspirations and better educational opportunities has meant that many more married Italian women are working full time outside the home more than 30 years ago.

But Italian society still expects them also to shoulder all the burdens of running a home, looking after children and often elderly relatives as well. Caradonna said.

Yet Italian statutes still define the housewife as "a non-productive person dependent on others."

The housewives' federation is lobbying politicians to have that definition abolished and a national congress decided last month that if they get no response they will form a party to fight general elections due in 1992. They would also like financial recognition from the state — a token 300,000 lire (\$220) per month is the initial aim.

"We would be crazy to use the word 'salary' at this stage," Caradonna said ruefully.

Most members are young people but there are also many older women who would like to change things for their grandchildren. "Unfortunately Latin culture is still one in which the mamma does everything for her son and he grows up not expecting to lift a finger for himself,"

"Women get the men they deserve so it's up to us to do the changing," Caradonna said.

## Germaine Greer, feminist fatale

### Profile

WHAT happens to an *enfant terrible* when she turns 50? One answer is that she becomes a prophetess or, as we now say, a personality. But then, Dr Germaine Greer, 50, has been making her personality her fortune for almost 20 years.

Now that fortune will be substantially increased, and that personality given a new airing, by her forthcoming book: *Daddy, We Hardly Knew You* (Hamish Hamilton) — a strange quest for her father.

He was a seller of newspaper advertisement space — whom she knew as a rather broken man she and her mother met off the troop train when he returned from serving in the Australian Air Force against the Japanese — but about whom, it seems, she knew nothing. And in the course of her quest — which involves looking up old birth certificates and records — she gradually discovers that he was not what he claimed to be.

The book contains more of the sort of swipes at her mother, who is still alive, that she has been making is depicted as a fatuous woman interested in little other than perfecting her tan — "a woman who has done nothing but lie on beaches for the best part of 70 years," as the book puts it.

The name Germaine Greer burst upon the world in 1970 with her first book *The Female Eunuch*. Its appeal lay less in its saying how frightful men were, or on listing the subjects (some of them disgusting) on which Dr Greer thought women too inhibited, than in its unconscious depiction of a large, dynamic, and possibly vulnerable woman.

Large in every sense: tall, well-boned and fine-featured, Germaine Greer is a tribute to all those steaks and all that swimming and sunshine in Australia where she grew up.

She went to university first in her home town of Melbourne, then to Sydney, where she was part of a formidable generation along with Mr Robert Hughes, art critic and author of the brilliant history of early Australia, *The Fatal Shore* and Clive James. After various adventures in New South Wales — living with an architect and trying to survive by backing horses — she arrived in England and Cambridge, in pursuit of fame and higher things.

Reacting against the "Australian cringe" and the image of beer-swilling Ockerism (they have very mixed feelings about Mr Barry Humphries), these Oz intellectuals fell over themselves in a desperate parade of learning heavily-worn.

Not that Dr Greer is a don manque. She took a BA and then a doctorate at Cambridge and might have spent her life as a Shakespearean scholar, but it would have bored her to death. There were brighter lights in London, where she went to publish her first tour de force, and to look for men.

Among other things Dr Greer was distinguished from most feminists by both her beauty and her attraction for men.

They were a very odd time, the late 1960s and early 1970s, with their cult of sex-for-fun and plain showing-off. She was married for a few weeks to a man whom she considered good for one thing only (he subsequently wrote a book about her, where is he now?), a short break in a career of amorous rapacity and exhibitionism and maybe boasting.

There was a close-up photograph of the Doctor in an Amsterdam pornography magazine — a pioneering publication since this was in the era just before "girlie mags" took on the gynaeology textbooks at their own game.

Perhaps these preoccupations explain why Dr Greer did not write another book for nine years. She lived noisily in London, taught at Warwick University, lectured in America, bought a shepherd's cottage on an Italian hilltop, wrote engaging and sometimes silly piece for the papers. She has a fine natural gift of expression and no shortage of opinions.

Having once written for academic journals, she took to writing "why-on-why" pieces for papers like the Mail, where an unfriendly critic might say she fitted in all too well.

Likewise, she is a natural broadcaster — and old-fashioned 1950s wireless personality — who flourishes on Any Questions? She wears as many hats as she likes. For a time she wrote a funny gardening column for Private Eye under the name "Rose Blight". Reading her elsewhere — "British men, they're all gay," says Dr Greer, "I think Italians are the best lovers" — you might think that one of her hats was the eye-catching number worn by Rose's colleague Glenda Slag.

She published *The Obstacle Race*, an investigation into why there were so few women painters, which was only quite well received by the art establishment, and then five years ago *Sex and Destiny* That book, and *Daddy, We Hardly Knew You*, published next month, may hold the key to Dr Greer.

She has written rapturously about the love of mother and child, of which by her own account she only knows at second hand. But then, as Evelyn Waugh once observed of writers like Samuel Butler and Osbert Sitwell, those who publicly ridicule their parents are usually themselves childless. Dr Greer never remarried and never found Dr Right. She would have liked to have children, but could not.

She is very feminine. She loves cooking, clothes, embroidery and entertaining. She is absurdly generous in an impetuous way, ordering dozens upon dozens of oysters for a gathering of friends, or giving her latest birthday party on a lavish scale in a Cambridge college. But the



Germaine Greer at 50: her personality has been her fortune for almost 20 years

one great outlet for her warmth and femininity and kindness was blocked. She is difficult. Some years ago the novelist Mr David Plante wrote a sharp-eyed, odious book called *Difficult Women*, one of whom was her. They may not have liked the book, but those who know her say they could not deny the likeness.

*Daddy, We Hardly Knew You* quotes her mother as saying: "You know the best book I ever read about you was that *Difficult Women* by whatshisname." Dr Greer's narrative continues: "David Plante, mother dear. It was the perfect wind-up. She must have known how I hated that book."

That conversation takes place on an Australian "gay" beach. She quotes herself as saying to her mother: "No wonder you like David Plante. You're a fag-bag. You've sat us right here in the middle of the meat rack... I'll get you some binoculars and a notebook, Ma. And you can do a behavioural study."

As the years go by Dr Greer has become more trying. She throws herself violently into controversy, irrespective of whether she is acquainted with its rights or wrongs. It is one thing to say that the sexual revolution has not been entirely beneficial to women — not a completely original insight of hers — or to take vehement sides in the unattractive argument between Antonia White's daughters. It is another to stomp about Ethiopia, insisting Beatrix Webb-like that the insane Mengistu regime is doing a grand job.

So she loses friends as well as makes them, and is inclined to see men's and women's hands turned against her, a strong echo, for those who knew them both, of another formidable literary lady, the late Dame Rebecca West.

Dr Greer was to have written a book about the last General Election, but it never got written. (It was while she was covering the election that there was a definitive Germanism: she was observing Dr Owen, one of whose bag-carriers came over and asked if she wanted an interview: "I never give interviews while I'm working.")

She is a member of the Labour Party and (of course) an attendee at Lady Antonia's ideological soirées.

Her time is spent between her house in Essex, not far from Cambridge, usually full of human as well as feline waifs and strays, and Italy, or wherever else she goes to stir things up: a powerful, frustrated, but at heart a kind and gentle woman whose scope for kindness has never been fulfilled.

## A head for capitalist fashion in Beijing

Western-style wigs are turning heads in Beijing. Most of the wigs have non-Chinese shades as henna red and honey blonde.

By Robert Basler

BEIJING'S first wig shop has opened its pink doors, wedged in among dusty grey rows of stores selling tyres and tools.

The wigs are made in China, but many of the samples perched on white display dummies feature long Western styles in such decidedly non-Chinese shades as henna red and honey blonde.

People have not been waiting in line to push inside the two-month-old boutique, but gradually, bold women and bald men are venturing in to try on the hairpieces.

It was only a matter of time before wigs appeared in a country where plastic surgery is on the increase, where the amount spent on cosmetics in mushrooming, and where fashion shows have become commonplace.

"Twenty years ago this shop would have been destroyed," Hu Jianmin, the 35-year-old hairdresser who runs the place, says with a hearty laugh. "But that is history."

Less than two decades ago, fanatical Red Guards were likely

to burn anything remotely Western.

Hu, by Beijing standards a non-traditional dresser right down to his orange boots, says he learned first-hand in his hair-dressing days exactly how many Chinese women were unhappy with the colour and style of their hair.

The shiny nylon wigs offered at the Beijing wig shop are made in a factory in Shandong province. In China, where numerical groupings such as "the Gang of Four" are traditional, the factory's products have been labelled "the three falses" wigs, hairpieces and false eyelashes.

They are aimed primarily at a lucrative export market. A government report on the overseas potential for the "three falses" speaks with relish about the 48,000 Japanese who wear wigs, and a supposed 800 million dollar annual demand for false eyelashes worldwide.

The decision to divert some of the factory's products to sell in Beijing followed a four-month feasibility study, which Hu says found a large number of young



Hu Jianmin, manager of Beijing's first modern wig shop shows off a blonde wig in his boutique. Hu says that blond and red wigs account for 10 per cent of his sales so far.

and middle-aged Chinese wanted to be able to radically change their appearance when the mood hit them.

"Many of our customers are women who have to look a certain way for their daytime jobs," explains a salesman in the shop. "But at night they dress up and go dancing, and they want to be able to look different."

The wigs range from about 100 yuan to 250 yuan (\$25 to 70), a hefty price in a country where the average annual wage is just a few hundred dollars in the cities, and even less in the countryside.

But in the new reformist China, where private enterprise has created a small but growing high-income group, there are some who can afford such diversions. And those who haven't the money to buy a wig have the option of renting one for an evening for a little over a dollar.

Sales figures are difficult to pin down. Hu says his shop is selling

10 wigs a day on average, but another salesman said it was more like two a day. Nonetheless, Hu optimistically hopes to hit 500 a month soon, and there are plans for several other branches.

Hu said the blonde and red wigs account for about 10 per cent of his sales so far. Chinese women as blondes and redheads? "The Chinese lifestyle is changing," Hu shrugs.

Similarly, in an atmosphere of renewed emphasis on youth — many of the men governing the country now are only in their '60s instead of their '80s — Chinese men are showing an interest in covering bald spots and receding hairlines.

In addition to wanting change just for the sake of change, Hu's customers often say they want to look like a movie star.

"Mostly it's Chinese movie stars," he said, "but also there are others."



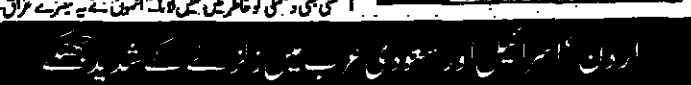
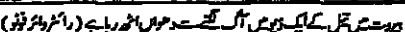








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## Yachtsmen will need record sums for next America's Cup

AUCKLAND, March 31, (Reuters) Yachtsmen are set to contest for the America's Cup, sailing's most coveted prize, in boats built under a strict new formula aimed at avoiding the legal battle which decided the last challenge.

But while millionaire backers may save on lawyers' fees, yachting experts said yesterday that they will have to come up with record sums just to make it to the startline in 1991.

"Unless you're willing to spare at least \$10 to 12 million, you're wasting your time," said Rod Davis, who coached the New Zealand team which lost on the water but won the cup in a New York court earlier this week.

New Zealand's Mercury Bay Boating Club won the right to host the next challenge off Auckland only after a bitter legal battle with San Diego Yacht Club.

Months of wrangling ended when the court ruled that the Californians had violated the 'spirit' of Cup rules dating from the last century by fielding a nimble catamaran against Mercury Bay's 130-foot (40-metre) sloop.

San Diego easily beat off the challenge last September.

In an effort to restore sporting spirit, designers from 15 nations have agreed on a new formula for the next challenge which allows for boats up to about 75 feet (23 metres), little more than half the size of Mercury Bay's giant.

From 1958 until the San Diego race, America's Cup competitors used boats slightly smaller than 75 feet.

But even Michael Fay, the millionaire banker who led Mercury Bay's challenge, thinks the new formula will be exciting if it is finally accepted by the 1991 challengers.

Meanwhile, the America's Cup sat in a clubhouse vault on Wednesday while San Diego Yacht Club officials debated whether to appeal against a court decision ordering the trophy forfeited to New Zealand.

New York judge Carmen Ciparick ruled on Tuesday that last September's races won by San Diego's catamaran against New Zealand's huge monohulled sloop were "a gross mismatch" and awarded the cup to the Mercury Bay Boating Club.

San Diego Yacht Club officials were expected to decide within a few days whether to appeal against the order to give up sailing's most prestigious trophy.

San Diego's commodore, Pat Goddard, said if the club decided to file an appeal, it would keep the trophy until all legal proceedings were completed, which could take more than a year. The next races are due to be held in 1991.

If the club decided not to appeal, Goddard said he would deliver the cup to his Mercury Bay counterpart.

"If the cup goes back to New Zealand, then the commodore of the San Diego Yacht Club will personally deliver it to commodore (Toby) Morcom," Goddard said.

Gerry Driscoll, chairman of the America's Cup committee and a veteran of several America's Cup campaigns, blamed the Sail America Foundation, which handled the defence of the Cup, accusing the group of intransigence in negotiations prior to September's races.

"Dennis Conner is not to blame for this. It's Sail America and their people who drew a hard line and got the backing of the San Diego Yacht Club. They fought every compromise like their life depended on it," Driscoll said.

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## Liverpool beat Derby to continue League title march

Match with Norwich vital

LONDON, March 31, (Reuters) English League soccer title favourites Liverpool beat Derby 1-0 at home on Wednesday to continue their stirring march to overhaul leaders Arsenal.

Anfield's biggest crowd of the season of over 42,500 roared Liverpool on as only bad luck, bad finishing and the undiminished powers of Derby's England goalkeeper Peter Shilton prevented a rout.

The champions are now only two points behind second placed Norwich and five behind Arsenal with a game in hand. Liverpool visit Norwich tomorrow in a vital match game for both sides.

**Dispossessed**  
The winning goal came after only three minutes when Ronnie Whelan dispossessed rival captain Mark Wright and found John Aldridge, who worked the ball to Peter Beardsley.

The little forward tricked his way through, fed in a left-wing cross and England colleague John Barnes deftly flicked the ball home.

Meanwhile, Northern Ireland international midfielder Norman Whiteside is poised to make his long-awaited return after injury on Sunday when Manchester United meet English League leaders Arsenal.

Whiteside, who became famous in 1982 when he appeared in the World Cup finals as a 17-year-old, has not played for United since last April.

The 23-year-old has had two operations on his Achilles tendon and chicken pox laid him up again three weeks ago after two reserve games.

**Impress**  
But he has since played in five minor games and scored in a reserve match on Wednesday to impress manager Alex Ferguson.

Norwich, in second place in the English Soccer League and in the semifinals of the English F.A. Cup for the first time in 30 years, has something to prove tomorrow as it faces Liverpool in a League match — that it belongs among the elite.

A recent newspaper poll of 14 Division One players resulted in 10 votes for Liverpool to successfully defend its championship and four votes for Arsenal to win. No one selected Norwich.

The Canaries trail Arsenal by three points and can tie the Gunners with a home victory

tomorrow, since Arsenal's game is not until Sunday at Manchester United.

But if Norwich loses to third-place Liverpool, which has won eight consecutive matches and has outscored opponents 24-4 during that streak, it will be passed by the Reds for second place.

Entering the weekend, Arsenal has 59 points but has played once more than Norwich (56 points) and Liverpool (54). Fourth-place Millwall has 50 points, but is starting to fade, while fifth-place Nottingham Forest is 11 points behind Arsenal.

**Injury**  
In other League games tomorrow, an injury-riddled Coventry team travels to Derby, Nottingham Forest is at Wimbledon, bottom-of-the-standings West Ham visits a Tottenham side that had its recent hot streak snapped last weekend by Liverpool and Millwall is at Sheffield Wednesday.

Also, Southampton hosts Newcastle in a battle of two clubs fighting to avoid relegation, Charlton welcomes Middlesbrough, Aston Villa hosts Luton and Everton is at home against Queens Park Rangers.

Liverpool, which like Norwich has advanced to the FA Cup semifinals, is undefeated in its last 14 contests and has been overpowering opponents. In its 1-0 victory on Wednesday night over Derby, the visitors did not manage a single shot on goal.

That kind of domination has opposing players picking Liverpool — which was 19 points behind Arsenal just one month ago — to retain its title.

**Fading**  
"Arsenal isn't fading, but it is feeling the pressure more," said Southampton's Paul Rideout. "Norwich has done well, but as it has its last three games away from home, it has to be Liverpool for me."

Other players said Liverpool is peaking at just the right time, and Coventry defender Trevor Peake predicted "they will do the double (FA Cup title and League championship) without losing a match."

Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish is less emphatic, saying only, "we will just keep plodding on, trying to play as well as we can and amass as many points as we can."

## European soccer roundup

### Real Madrid in mood for trip to Barcelona

AMSTERDAM, March 31, (Reuters) Real Madrid, 4-1 victors over Celtic Vigo in a Spanish Cup quarterfinal on Wednesday, will be full of confidence when they meet Barcelona tomorrow.

The Spanish First Division leaders, who lead the Catalans by three points, have hit form with perfect timing as they prepare for their European Cup semifinal against AC Milan next week and the run-in to their domestic championship.

A victory at Barcelona's Camp Nou Stadium, where they have won twice and lost eight times in the last 10 years, would not only lift them five points clear but endorse the relief that their experienced team has reached its peak this season under Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker.

Beenhakker rested midfielder Michel, defender Rafael Gordillo and winger Francisco Llorente on Wednesday night to ensure they would have a full-strength squad for tomorrow.

Barcelona, who have played one game more than their old rivals from the capital, know defeat by Madrid would be a severe blow to their own title hopes and may be without international striker Jose Bakero.

Bakero injured his right eye during Barcelona's 3-3 draw with Atletico Madrid in a Spanish Cup quarterfinal first leg tie on Tuesday.

**Top scorer**  
Barcelona coach Johann Cruyff may give a debut to Julio Cesar Romero "Romerito", the Paraguayan World Cup star signed from Fluminense of Brazil. Romerito trained with his new team-mates for the first time yesterday.

In Italy, Internazionale Milan will have an opportunity to extend their four-point lead at the top of the First Division on Sunday when they entertain lowly Como. Nearest rivals Napoli meet Juventus.

The leaders will be without leading striker Aldo Serena, Italy's top scorer this season with 15 goals. He has a pulled muscle and will be rested.

Juventus, nursing memories of their last trip to Naples on March 15 when Napoli knocked them out of the UEFA Cup, will be without injured defenders Antonio Cabrini and Sergio Bri.

Napoli's Argentine captain Diego Maradona will also miss the game to make sure he is fully fit for the side's UEFA Cup semifinal first leg against Bayern Munich.

In West Germany, Bundesliga leaders Bayern attempt to stretch their unbeaten league record this season to 24 matches when they travel to Borussia Moenchengladbach tomorrow.

Bayern, with 36 points from 23 games, have won only once there in the past seven years, but on present form should take at least one point from their fifth-placed hosts.

**Task**  
Cologne, five points adrift of Bayern in second place, will be trying to win in Hamburg for the first time in 19 years, a task made harder by third-placed Hamburg's desire to erase memories of Wednesday's quarterfinal Cup defeat by Bremen.

Defending champions Werder Bremen, unbeaten at home this season, take on relegation-threatened Hannover.

In the French League, the focus will be on the capital where league leaders Paris Saint-Germain hope to strengthen their grip at the top tomorrow when they meet seventh-placed Nice.

The exhausted Frenchman fought poor sea and wind conditions in his damaged vessel as he sailed solo toward the Golden Gate in an effort to beat a record set only a few weeks ago by Thursday's Child.

"It's too much, the bad luck I've had," he radioed supporters in San Francisco on Wednesday. "I will struggle on."

Monnet, 29, his hands and arms badly cut from grueling work to save his mast on Monday night, had spent hours on the mast, cutting away a shredded sail and making temporary repairs to a broken headstay, the mast's main support.

"I am worried. Anything can happen. He is fighting confused seas 12 feet (3.5 metres) high and as bad winds from the north-northwest. It is the worst he can have," he said. "Just a small difference in the direction of the wind and he will be okay."

**Romania win**  
SIBIU, Romania, March 31, (Reuters) World Cup hosts Italy went down 1-0 (half-time 0-0) to a robust Romanian side in a friendly soccer international on Wednesday.

The winning Romanian goal came in the 48th minute from midfielder Ovidiu Sabau, who swept past Italian defender Franco Baresi to shoot from about 30 metres and kept on going to take the rebound from Italian goalkeeper Walter Zenga.

The best Italian effort came in the second half when Gianluca Vialli hit the post.



Norwich had a chance to tie Arsenal for the League lead last weekend when it played twice, but was embarrassed 2-0 at home by 19th-place Newcastle before winning by the same score at West Ham. If it wins tomorrow it will have the same number of points as Arsenal, but still technically will trail on goal difference.

Arsenal received good news yesterday when Lee Dixon was declared fit for the Sunday game at Manchester United. Defender Dixon had injured his foot in last weekend's 3-1 victory at Southampton.

The play got rough in the first minute after a powerful shot from Saudi forward Majed Abdullah bounced off the Syrian goal pole. The Japanese referee Takado expelled Saudi player Yousef Thanyan in the 30th minute for striking a Syrian player.

Saudi Arabia needs at least a draw with North Yemen in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia next Wednesday to move to the next round. A Saudi defeat would advance the Syrians.

Syria defeated Yemen 2-0 in a March 25 playoff in Lattakia after first defeating the Yemenis 1-0 in Sanaa, the Yemeni capital.

Meanwhile, Australia hopes to move a step closer to a place in the 1990 World Cup soccer tournament in Italy when it faces arch-rival New Zealand at Mount Smart Stadium here on Sunday.

Australia beat New Zealand 4-1 in their first meeting in Sydney earlier this month. It shares the lead in the Oceania Zone qualifying group with Israel.

Both teams have three points from two matches, while New Zealand has lost both its matches to date.

The winner of the group will face either Colombia, Paraguay or Ecuador for a place in the finals.

Australia will be without Belgian-based strikers Eddie Krcevic and Frank Farina for the match, but both will return for the potentially crucial second match against Israel in Sydney on April 16.

Scott Ollerenshaw and Warren Spink replace the two expatriates in the Australian team.

**Sheraton bridge**  
RESULTS of Sheraton Bridge Club game held on Wednesday at Hayat Regency.

N/S  
1. Heneidi & Sherin  
2. Shah & Zahairi  
3. Mrs and Mr Asfar  
Dr. Reddy & Zamaniri  
E/W  
1. Dr Sam & Latala  
2. Damsa & Montefiro  
3. Nisar & Chandrasek

Budd came to Britain as a teenager, known best for running in bare feet and smashing world records. She won two world cross-country championships for Britain, set world marks at three distances and won the women's 3,000 at the European Cup.

Ward said Budd wrote to the board on Feb 27 "asking for clarification" of her eligibility status. The board replied March 20 that no decision could be reached until the inquiry was completed, and that the investigation would be resumed as soon as Budd asked for reinstatement, according to the spokesman.

But with £20,000 (\$34,000) already spent on its inquiry, Ward added, the board wanted to make sure that it would not be faced with the same old problem over Budd's allegiance once it completed the investigation.

"We said that we immediately would have to reconvene the inquiry," Ward said. "But what we also are saying to Zola is, 'Are you going to return here to live the life of a normal British athlete?'"

Those protests reached a head last May when Budd, described at the time as an emotional wreck, left her house in suburban Guildford and returned to South Africa, saying she was quitting her sport.

"At the time, the British board was investigating whether the distance runner had violated eligibility rules by 'taking part' in two South African track meets. Budd did not run in either meet but was highly visible at both events."

That probe was opened after the International Amateur Athletic Federation, track's world-wide governing body, asked the British board to suspend Budd for 12 months. The board recessed the inquiry when Budd left but asked her to refrain from international running as long as the investigation was incomplete.

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## Syria tie with Saudi Arabia in World Cup soccer qualifier

LATTAKIA, Syria, March 31, (AP) Syria and Saudi Arabia tied 0-0 in a World Cup West Asia Group 2 qualifying playoff in this North Syrian port city yesterday.

Saudi Arabia won the first game against Syria 5-4 on March 15.

More than 50,000 soccer fans packed Assad Stadium to watch the two Arab teams battling for advancement into the next round.

The game was characterised by fierce attacks and counterattacks but neither side managed to score. The referees extended the game eight minutes to make up for time lost by delaying tactics employed by the Saudi players in the second half.

The play got rough in the first minute after a powerful shot from Saudi forward Majed Abdullah bounced off the Syrian goal pole. The Japanese referee Takado expelled Saudi player Yousef Thanyan in the 30th minute for striking a Syrian player.

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ing champion Ayrton Senna sits in the passenger seat of a Brazilian jet fighter yesterday, led of 1,600 km per hour Senna was treated to an acrobatic ride that included spins and newspaper reported he emerged after landing shaking and sweating. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Curren to face Lendl in men's Players' semifinals

# Sabatini and Evert advance to final

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla., March 31. (Reuters) Gabriela Sabatini and Chris Evert won their semifinals in contrasting fashion yesterday to set up a scintillating women's final in the 2.1-million-dollar international players championship.

Sabatini, the top seed, struggled past Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 6-7 6-3 6-4 to reach her first players final, while second seed Evert coasted by fellow-American Zina Garrison 6-3 6-1 to book her fifth straight trip to the final.

The title match between Evert and the Argentine teenager will also be a battle for the number three world ranking, which Sabatini took from Evert nearly four weeks ago.

The men's semifinals will be contested today with top seed Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia facing 13th-seeded American Kevin Curren, and seventh seed Thomas Muster of Austria playing 12th seed Yannick Noah of France.

Sabatini held off the hard serve of Sukova, who won the opening-set tiebreaker by 7-2, and persevered through searing heat that reached 49 degrees Centigrade on court to register her two-hour 18-minute victory.

A lapse in concentration cost Sukova in the final set as she committed four unforced errors, two on groundstrokes and two on volleys, on her serve at 4-5 in the final set.

"Maybe, I wasn't concentrating as much as I should have been. I don't know. That's the way it goes sometimes," said Sukova.

Evert, who won this tournament in 1986, dictated her semifinal by keeping the fifth-seeded Garrison on the run with her sharply-angled groundstrokes and waiting for Garrison to make mistakes.

Evert swept six consecutive games from 5-3 to win the first set and to seize a 5-0 lead in the second, squandering three match points on her serve in the sixth game before finally winning on a garrison double-fault in the next game.

Evert said that she expected a stronger challenge from Garrison, rated seventh in the world.

"I expected a lot more of Zina. It was a bad day for her. I'm not really sure how well I played because she was floating her shots," said Evert.

## Victory

Ivan Lendl, the top seed, powered his way to an easy straight-set victory over 10th-seeded Aaron Krickstein on Wednesday to advance to the semifinals of the International Players Championships.

Lendl took less than two hours to dispose of Krickstein 6-2 6-2 6-2 and join Frenchman Yannick Noah, Austrian Thomas Muster and American Kevin Curren in the semifinals.

Noah, the 12th seed, advanced



Noah: meets Muster

with a 6-4 6-1 6-4 win over Carl-Uwe Steeb of West Germany, while Curren beat 11th-seeded Emilio Sanchez of Spain 6-3 6-1 6-4, and Muster eliminated hard-serving American Jim Grabb 7-5 7-6 1-6 6-0.

Lendl relied on his service game to carry him past a lackluster Krickstein.

"I was really pleased with the way I was serving, especially when I was down," Lendl said. "I just got out of it with a couple of big serves."

Krickstein admitted he did not have much confidence going against world number one Lendl. "Against someone like that I know I've got to hit some good shots early and he's got to be a little off," the American said. "During the match it's hard to think you're going to win. I would have had to get ahead early."

Lendl dominated the error-prone Krickstein from the start. The Czechoslovak was nearly perfect from the service line and

hit winners on his groundstrokes as Krickstein struggled to find rhythm on his strokes.

Lendl broke Krickstein in the fifth and seventh games of the first set on errors by the American, and in the first game of the second set. Another break for 5-2 allowed Lendl to serve out the second set.

Lendl broke again in the third and seventh games of the third set, overpowering Krickstein with overhead smashes and aces. Appropriately, he finished the match with an ace.

Curren, at his best on faster hard courts, proved too strong for clay court specialist Sanchez. The South African-born Curren pounded in eight aces and a multitude of service winners.

## Upset

Noah, after three consecutive five-set victories, was pleased to have a shorter work day against Steeb, who had upset third-seeded American Andre Agassi in the first round.

"I was tired. I'm glad I won in three sets because I don't think I could have played five sets," Noah said.

Grabb, at 172 the lowest ranked player left in the draw, could not handle the onslaught of groundstrokes from Muster.

In the first two closely fought sets, a couple of points made the difference as Muster's topspin countered the serve-and-volley game of his unseeded American opponent.

Salmiya beaten in Kuwait soccer

# Al Arabi clinch League title

AL Arabi sports club was yesterday crowned as the Kuwait Soccer League champions for the 88/89 season. The club clinched the title for the second year in succession, even before the end of all the games.

Al Arabi defeated Salmiya 1-0, to remain unbeaten throughout the 13 out of 14 games in the League and only drew twice.

The team also scored 15 goals while conceding only one goal in the opening match against Al Kuwait. Now Al Arabi has 24 points from 13 games with Qadisia, Kazma and Salmiya all on 14 points each. The soccer League officially ends on April 14.

In the match played yesterday, the chairman of the Kuwait Football Association, Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah presented the League Shield and the Memorial Cup and the gold medals to the Al Arabi team. This is the 13th League title for



Al Arabi's Sami Hashash holds up the League Shield.

Al Arabi club out of the 28 seasons played so far, thus collecting the maximum number of League titles followed by Qadisia and Al Kuwait with six titles each.



A soccer action between Al Arabi and Salmiya.

## Sweden and South Korea locked in table tennis battle

DORTMUND, West Germany, March 31. (Reuters) Olympic champion Yoo Nam-Kyu and his South Korean colleagues were locked in a herculean battle with Sweden in the longest and toughest table match so far at the World Table Tennis Championships today.

Yoo helped South Korea fight back to 2-2 after European champions Sweden had gone 2-0 up in the second round group match with victories by Mikael Appelgren and world silver medalist Jan-Ove Waldner.

European champion Appelgren's 21-9 21-7 win over Olympic silver medalist Kim Ki-Taek gave Sweden a good start. But things got progressively harder. Kim Taek-Soo extended Waldner to three games before the Swede claimed victory and then Yoo beat Erik Lindh, bronze medalist at the Seoul Olympics, 21-19 14-21 21-11.

As the clock ticked past the two-hour mark Kim Ki-Taek used his fearsome forehand to beat Waldner 21-13 15-21 21-19 and level the score at 2-2.

Hong Kong's Chai Po Wa and Chan Tan Lui dented the Soviet Union's medals hopes when they beat the women's team in the second round.

## Hard-fought

Valentina Popova's experience as two-time European champion failed to help her against the Chinese-born pair who took Hong Kong to a 3-0 victory in their round robin group.

Chan beat Popova 21-15 15-21 21-13 in the second singles and the Hong Kong pair won a hard-fought victory, 22-24 21-16 21-19, in the doubles.

Galina Melnik, who teamed up with Popova in the doubles, lost her singles against Chai in straight sets. Melnik was deputising for reigning European champion Flura Bulatova who was left out of the Soviet team.

The result, in the toughest women's second round group, leaves the Soviet Union, the European champions, needing to beat world bronze medalists Hungary and England to have a hope of reaching the quarterfinals.

Defending world champions China and 1987 runners-up South Korea had no problems in their opening second round matches although South Korea doubles pair Hyun Jung-Hwa and Kwon Mi-Sook dropped a game against Taiwan's Lin Li-Zu and Tsung Shui-Li.

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## Mason and Bolling share first round lead

IS MOLAS, Sardinia, March 31. (Reuters) Britain's Carl Mason and American Charlie Bolling finished tied for the lead in yesterday's first round of the \$350,000 Volvo Open after each squandered the chance to lead outright.

They ended with a four-under-par 68 to finish a stroke clear of British trio Paul Way, Gordon J. Brand and Andrew Chandler. Mason was five under par after 15 holes and Bolling seven under. But both men, each seeking a first tour victory, came to grief at the par-four eighth—their 17th hole.

## Recovery

Former Walker Cup amateur Mason had to back into a bush to play his recovery after a bad drive and bogeyed the hole. But Bolling fared even worse, running up a triple-bogey seven after pulling his tee shot against a tree and missing the green with his third.

Eight players were bunched together on 70. Irishmen Eamonn Darcy and Christy O'Connor Jr., Argentina's Vicente Fernandez, Swede Ove Selberg, Frenchman Frederic Regard, Italy's Alberto Binaghi, Spain's Juan Quiros and Britain's John Morgan.

Both Chandler, who lost his tour card last year and failed at December's PGA school, and Darcy, back after treatment for a

shoulder injury suffered in Majorca a month ago, had six birdies on their cards.

In Woodlands, Texas, Mike Donald took advantage of an early start time to post a five-under-par 67 yesterday and grab a one-stroke lead after the opening round of the \$800,000 Independent Open golf tournament.

Playing his round before afternoon winds gusting to nearly 50 kph, Donald carded six birdies against a lone bogey over the 7,042-yard tournament players course.

His fellow-Americans Brad Faxon and Mike Hulbert were tied for second place at 68. Two strokes back at 69 were Spain's Seve Ballesteros and Americans John Inman, Roger Maltbie, Brad Bryant, Buddy Gardner, Don Shirley and defender Curtis Strange.

Among the leaders, only Hulbert and Bryant played in the afternoon winds.

"It was survival out there for awhile," Hulbert said. "The holes down wind were actually a little harder than hitting into the wind. You had to be very careful."

Donald, who started on the back nine, began quickly with birdies on three of his first four holes on putts of 25, 12 and 15 feet.

## KAF seniors' final

## Italian shows supremacy

THE Kuwait Archery Federation (KAF) held its final senior competition of the 1988-1989 season. The sandstorm was so severe at the Hunting & Equestrian Club that the golfers and horse riders had to abandon their competitions but the archers were luckier for they had the use of their indoor range. Even inside, the air was filled with sand and the 25 metre targets were difficult to see.

The archers had 120 arrows to shoot at two distances — 25 metres and 18 metres. Once again Italian Angelo Zicarelli showed his supremacy and outshot every one else. Carolyn Tshering (Bhutan) came overall second closely followed by Frenchman Remi Specque with fellow Frenchman Jean-Pierre Turque fourth.

It was the first time Remi Specque had reached 900 and therefore he was presented with the official badge from the Asian Archery Federation. Others who have already received this award are Phil Hall, Angelo Zicarelli, Carolyn Tshering, Jean-Pierre Turque and Hani Badr.

## Records

It was a sad day for the archers because the oldest member of the federation, Angelo Zicarelli shot for the last time in Kuwait. He has now returned to Italy after eight years in Kuwait. He holds six Kuwait archery records and it will be some time before all of these records are broken. He was awarded the 1988-1989 Archer of the Year shield by Mohammed M. Al Shaheen. This is the third consecutive year he has won it. All the Kuwait archers wished him bon voyage and good

luck in his Italian archery competitions.

The junior archers held their final competition a few days later and they were much luckier with the weather and were able to shoot outside. They came dressed in all types of outfits from the king of hearts to a couch potato. The competition took the form of a fun shoot and they had barebow shooting at animal targets, back to front shooting where the target faces were reversed and the exciting balloon bursting. The weather and holiday atmosphere helped to make the afternoon a very happy event. The managing director of the Hunting & Equestrian Club, Mohammed M. Al Shaheen presented the prizes at the end of the competition.

## Winners list

Barebow Shooting Junior Division: Unni Menon, Dawood Esmail, Ezz Al Arab.

Barebow Shooting Beginners: Krishna Menon, Faye Zeban, Ali Faris.

Back to Front Target Faces Juniors: Unni Menon, Dawood Esmail, Ezz Al Arab.

Back to Front Target Faces Beginners: Ali Faris, Nawaf Shemali, Mohammed Radi.

Balloon Bursting Juniors (in pairs): Anurag Galhotra/Ezz Al Arab.

Balloon Bursting Beginners (in pairs): Mohammed Radi/Ali Al Ghanim.

Barebow Shooting Cadets: Hamoud Al Ghanim, Mishal Mishri, Yusuf Al Arab.

Back to Front Target Faces Cadets: Mishal Mishri, Yusuf Al Arab, Ali Mahmoud.

## Yusupov draws with Spassky in Chess World Cup

BARCELONA, Spain, March 31. (AP) Arthur Yusupov of the Soviet Union drew with the former world champion Boris Spassky of France in the opening round of the three-week-long World Chess Cup yesterday.

Other results of this round of the 17-man Cup were: Yasser Seirawan, United States, defeated Jesus Nogueiras, Cuba.

Viktor Korchnoi, Switzerland, defeated Predrag Nikolic, Yugoslavia.

Johan Hjartarson, Iceland, defeated Valery Salov, Soviet Union.

Ljubomir Ljubojevic, Yugoslavia, defeated Jonathan Speelman, England.

Three matches were drawn: they were Zoltan Ribli, Hungary, and Miguel Illescas, Spain; Robert Hubner, West Germany, and Rafael Vaganian, Soviet Union; and Nigel Short, England, and Alexander Belajsky, Soviet Union.

Reigning world champion Gary Kasparov of the Soviet Union did not play this round.

Former Soviet world champion Mikhail Tal has withdrawn due to illness.

Today's second round will be played between Belajsky vs Ljubojevic, Salov vs Short, Vaganian vs Hjartarson, Nikolic vs Hubner, Nogueiras vs Korchnoi, Spassky vs Seirawan, Illescas vs Yusupov, and Kasparov vs Ribli. Speelman will not play this round.

This tournament was sponsored by the Association of Chess Grand Masters.

## Title fight re-scheduled

BRUSSELS, March 31. (Reuters) Venezuelan Antonio Esparagoza's defence of his World Boxing Association featherweight title against Belgian Jean-Marc Renard has been re-scheduled for June 2. Renard's manager said yesterday.

The fight was fixed for April 28 in Namur, Belgium, but Esparagoza asked for the postponement because he was tired after last Sunday's successful title bout.

## Ewing leads Knicks past Mavericks

NEW YORK, March 31. (AP) Patrick Ewing scored 26 points, including two key free throws with 2:11 left, as the New York Knicks handed the Dallas Mavericks their 12th consecutive defeat, 99-98 last night.

The Knicks tied the score four times in the fourth quarter before taking their first lead, 94-93, on a 3-point goal by Mark Jackson with 3:28 left.

After a free throw by Adrian Dantley made it 94-94, Ewing's two free throws put the Knicks ahead to stay. Sam Perkins, who led Dallas with 21 points, then missed two free throws with 1:49 remaining.

A basket by Charles Oakley and another free throw by Ewing gave New York a 99-94 advantage, but a 3-pointer by Perkins narrowed the margin to two with 1:04 left.

Perkins converted one of two free throws with 32 seconds left to make it 99-98. Jackson missed two free throws with five seconds left, but the clock ran out after Dallas failed to get the rebound.

Michael Adams and Walter Davis, stymied during the first

three quarters, had 14 of Denver's first 18 points in the fourth quarter and sparked a 10-0 run as the Nuggets ran away from Seattle, 123-116. It was the Nuggets' 14th straight home win; they are 30-5 at Denver. The SuperSonics suffered their ninth straight loss on the road.

## Patchwork

Byron Scott matched his season high with 35 points and AC Green added 22 as the Los Angeles Lakers trounced the San Antonio Spurs 138-98.

Brad Lohaus scored 23 of his season-high 29 points in the second half and grabbed a career-high 10 rebounds as the Sacramento Kings beat the Phoenix Suns 135-123. The Phoenix loss and their own win increased the Lakers lead in the Pacific Division to four games.

Meanwhile, Reggie Lewis scored 27 of his 35 points in the second half as the injury-plagued Boston Celtics, using a patchwork lineup, defeated the Portland Trail Blazers 106-97 on Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, Viv Richards, who captained West Indies to a 3-1 win over Australia in the recent cricket Test series, finished top of the first class batting averages in the Australian 1988/89 season.

Figures released yesterday showed Richards scored 683 runs in 11 innings at an average of 68.30.

Tom Moody of Western Australia, who won the Sheffield Shield on Tuesday, finished second with 1,175 runs at 61.84.

West Indies' Gordon Greenidge was fifth in the average with 57.14.

Only three members of Australia's squad for their forthcoming Ashes Tour of England — Moody, Tim Zohrer and Mark Taylor — were in the top 10.

Test bowler Terry Alderman, also of Western Australia, was top of the bowling averages taking 48 wickets at an average of 20.71.

Geoff Lawson was fourth with 45 wickets at 22.33 a Indian curly Ambro with 32 at 22.78.

Four of the Ashes, Alderman, Law, Waugh and Tim, in the top 10 averages.

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Published by:  
Dar Al-Seyassah

Editor-in-Chief  
Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editorial Office:  
Airport Road, Shurwaha.  
P.O. Box 2270,  
13023 Safat, Kuwait.

Telex:  
22332 KY

Telephone:  
4813588 (main lines)

Advertising:  
4813528

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